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Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Deputies Reach Agreement at Al-Ta'if Talks

Algeria's Ghazali Arrives

LD2310124389 Algiers APS in Arabic 0730 GMT
23 Oct 89

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 23 Oct (APS)—Mr Ahmed Sayed Ghazali, Algerian foreign minister and member of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon, arrived in al-Ta'if last night.

Mr Ghazali is to take part in the meetings of the tripartite committee which will be held in al-Ta'if today in order to review the results reached by the Lebanese parliamentarians concerning the agreement on the draft document on Lebanese national concord.

He will also attend with other members of the committee the final session of the Lebanese parliament which is expected to convene tomorrow—Tuesday.

Mr Ghazali had met yesterday in Damascus with Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian vice president. The minister of foreign affairs stopped over in Damascus before arriving in al-Ta'if.

'Awn Asked To Read Amended Articles

NC2310204389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has stated that he asked that guarantees be outlined in the statement that will be released by the Arab tripartite committee. He also asked that General Michel 'Awn read the amended articles before a final agreement is declared.

He added: If he agrees to the document, he and Dr Salim al-Huss will be invited to Jeddah to be with the deputies when the Lebanese accord is declared. He noted that Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim visited Beirut for this purpose.

Deputies Issue Statement in Jeddah

NC2310223089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 2145 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In a statement issued this evening after meetings they held in Jeddah, the eastern area deputies said that the al-Ta'if agreement was necessary for a practical plan to regain the country's sovereignty and to secure a commitment from the Syrian Government in the wake of Arab and international public opinion. The agreement was also necessary in order to secure guarantees from Syria which the Lebanese have always wanted but were unable to get before.

The statement said that missing this opportunity, which might never come again, would be a crime. What is important is that reconciliation and the establishment of

a capable state is the effective means for the liberation of Lebanon from Israeli occupation, which has become the subject of international consensus and commitment, the statement said.

The eastern area deputies added in their statement that they came to al-Ta'if determined to regain full sovereignty on Lebanese soil and to rebuild the state institutions.

The statement called on the Lebanese people to consider all the facts and support the deputies' approach which puts an end to their suffering.

Wording in Accord Agreed Upon

LD2310154489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1427 GMT
23 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 23 Oct (SPA)—The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies has agreed on the final draft of the National Accord document and some of the conciliatory amendments introduced to some of its clauses.

The chamber yesterday concluded its 11th closed session, which was held at the Palace of Conferences in al-Ta'if under the chairmanship of Husayn al-Husayni, the chamber's speaker, and with the participation of all the members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies present in al-Ta'if. [passage omitted]

During this session, which lasted 2 hours, a final revision of the Lebanese National Reconciliation Charter was undertaken, and agreement was reached on the document by the drafting committee. After the drafting committee completed its meeting, the remainder of the members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies congratulated the members of the drafting committee.

Husayn al-Husayni pointed out that agreement had been reached on the final wording of the National Reconciliation Charter by the committee, and that the latter had signed it. [passage omitted]

National Accord Document

LD2410044189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 23 Oct 89

["Final form" of Lebanese National Accord document approved by Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, on 22 October]

[Text] First. General Principles and Reforms:

I. General Principles:

A. The Identity of Lebanon: Lebanon is a sovereign and independent homeland, united in territory, people, and institutions within its border, which is stipulated in the Lebanese Constitution and recognized internationally. Lebanon is Arab by belonging and identity. It is a working member of the Arab League and is committed to all its charters. It is a founding and active member of the United Nations and committed to its charter, and it is

also a member of the Nonaligned Movement. The Lebanese state embodies all these principles in all fields and spheres without exception.

B. Political System: Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic based on respect for public liberties, at the forefront of which are the freedom of opinion and belief; the principle of separating the authorities and their balance and cooperation; social justice; and equality of duties and rights among all citizens without prejudice or favoritism;

C. The economic system is a liberal one which guarantees individual initiative and private property.

D. The balanced cultural, social, and economic development of the region is an essential element for the state's unity and the stability of the political system.

E. Work must be done to achieve comprehensive social justice through financial, economic, and social reforms.

F. Lebanon is one land for all Lebanese. Every Lebanese has the right to settle on any part of this land and enjoy it under the shadow of the rule of law. There will be no discrimination among the people on the basis of any affiliation. Neither will there be any partition, division, or incorporation.

G. No legitimacy will be given to any authority which opposes the charter of coexistence.

II. The Political Reforms:

A. The Chamber of Deputies:

The Chamber of Deputies is the legislative power which exercises full supervision of the government's policy and its actions.

1. The speaker and his deputy are elected for a period equal to the life of the legislature.

2. Two years after the election of its speaker and his deputy and at its first session, the legislature can withdraw its confidence in its speaker or his deputy once and with a majority of two-thirds of the total number of its members on the basis of a petition signed by at least 10 deputies. In such a case the legislature must immediately hold a session to fill the vacant post.

3. Any draft bill referred by the Council of Ministers to the legislature urgently cannot be issued until it is included in the agenda of a plenary session and then discussed. No decision can be made on it before the period of time stipulated in the Constitution has lapsed and before the approval of the Council of Ministers.

4. The electoral constituency is the governorate.

5. Until the parliament has laid down an electoral bill which is free from sectarian restraints, the parliamentary seats will be distributed along the following lines:

- a. equal numbers for Christians and Muslims.
- b. proportionally among the sects of the two groups.
- c. proportionally among the regions.

6. The number of the deputies will be increased to 108 equally divided between Christians and Muslims. The

new posts created on the basis of this document and the posts which became vacant before it was proclaimed will be filled exceptionally and once only by appointment decided by the would-be government of national accord.

7. With the election of the first legislature on a national and not a sectarian basis a senate will be created and it will represent all the spiritual families. Its prerogatives will be restricted to fateful issues.

B. The President of the Republic: The president is the head of state and symbol of national unity. He ensures respect for the Constitution and protection of the independence of Lebanon and its territorial integrity and safety. He is the supreme commander of the armed forces which are under the authority of the Council of Ministers. The president has the following powers:

1. He presides over the Council of Ministers when he wishes and without voting.

2. He presides over the Supreme Defense Council.

3. He issues decrees and requests their publication. He has the right to ask the Council of Ministers to reconsider any decision it makes within 15 days of his installation [as heard] as president of the republic. If the Council of Ministers insists on the decision made or if the deadline has lapsed without the publication or reconsideration of the decree the decree or the decision is considered legally valid and must be published.

4. He issues laws according to the deadlines defined in the Constitution and requests their publication after they are ratified by the legislature. He is also entitled—after informing the Council of Ministers—to request that laws be reconsidered within the deadlines defined in the Constitution and in accordance with its provisions. If the deadlines have expired and these laws have not been published or reconsidered, the laws become legally valid and must be published.

5. He refers draft bills which are submitted to him by the Council of Ministers to the legislature.

6. He nominates the prime minister after consulting the speaker of the legislature on the basis of binding parliamentary consultations whose results are formally conveyed to him by the speaker.

7. He issues a separate decree nominating the prime minister.

8. He issues—with the agreement of the prime minister—the decree for the formation of the government.

9. He issues the decrees on accepting the resignation of the government or the resignation of ministers or their dismissal.

10. He accredits ambassadors and accepts their credentials and awards state medals by decree.

11. He is in charge of negotiations on the signing of international treaties and signs these treaties with the agreement of the prime minister. These treaties will only be in force after approval by the Council of Ministers. The government informs the legislature about these treaties when the country's interest and the state's safety allow it. The treaties which concern state finances,

commercial treaties, and other treaties which cannot be abrogated year after year cannot be signed until they are approved by the legislature.

12. When needed, the president sends letters to the legislature.

13. He calls on the legislature—with the agreement of the prime minister—to hold extraordinary sessions by decree.

14. The president of the republic has the right to submit any urgent matter to the Council of Ministers through its agenda. [as heard]

15. He calls for an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers whenever he deems it necessary with the agreement of the prime minister.

16. He grants private pardons by decree.

17. The president of the republic cannot be prevented from carrying out his function except when he violates the Constitution or in the case of high treason.

C. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers

The chairman of the Council of Ministers is the head of government and represents the latter, speaks on its behalf, and is considered to be responsible for the execution of the general policy adopted by the Council of Ministers. He exercises the following powers:

1. He presides over the Council of Ministers.

2. He holds legislative consultations to form the government and signs with the president of the republic the decree of its formation. The government has to present to the parliament its ministerial statement [as heard] in order to win its confidence within a deadline of 30 days. The government cannot exercise its powers before winning confidence nor after its resignation. It will also be considered dissolved only in the strict sense to enable it to expedite remaining business.

3. He submits the government's general policy before the legislature.

4. He signs all decrees except the decree nominating the head of government and the decree accepting the resignation of the government, which dissolves it.

5. He signs decrees requesting the opening of an extraordinary session, decrees on the publication of laws, and requests for their reconsideration.

6. He calls for a meeting of the Council of Ministers and draws up its agenda and informs the president of the republic in advance about the topics included in the agenda and the urgent topics which will be discussed. He also signs the usual minutes of the sittings.

7. He follows the activities of the public administration and public enterprises and coordinates between the ministries. He also gives general directives to ensure the good functioning of the work.

8. He holds working sessions with the state's competent authorities in the presence of the competent minister.

9. He is by law deputy to the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

D. The Council of Ministers: Procedural powers are entrusted to the Council of Ministers. Among the powers exercised by the Council of Ministers are the following:

1. Lay down the general policy of the state in all domains, draw up draft laws and decrees, and make the decisions necessary for their implementation.

2. Attend to the execution of the laws and official ordinances and supervise the activity of all the state's apparatuses, including the administrations, the civil, military, and security institutions without exception.

3. The Council of Ministers is the authority which the armed forces obey.

4. Appoint the civil servants, dismiss them, and accept their resignations in accordance with the law.

5. Has the right to dissolve the legislature at the request of the president of the republic if the legislature refrains from meeting during an ordinary or extraordinary session for at least 1 month despite two successive calls or if it rejects the whole schedule with a view to paralyzing the work of the government. This right cannot be exercised for the same reasons which led to the dissolution of the legislature the first time.

6. When the president of the republic is present he chairs the sessions of the Council of Ministers. The meetings of the Council of Ministers are to be held at a venue designated by the Council of Ministers. The legal quorum of its meetings is two-thirds of its members. It adopts its decisions by consent, and if this is not possible, by voting. Decisions require the majority of those present except in fundamental issues where they require a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council of Ministers. The following are considered as fundamental issues:

Declaring and ending the state of emergency, war and peace, and general mobilization; concluding international agreements and treaties; the general budget of the state and the comprehensive and long-term development plans; the appointment of officials of the first grade or its equivalent; the administrative redistribution of governorates; the dissolution of the legislature; election law, the law of personal status, the law of nationality; and the dismissal of ministers.

E. The Minister:

The powers of the minister should be consolidated in a way compatible with the general policy of the government and the collective responsibility. The minister should not be removed except by a decision by the Council of Ministers or by a vote of no confidence in him by the Chamber of Deputies.

F. The resignation of the government, considering it resigned, and firing of ministers:

1. The government is considered as resigned in the following situations:

a. If the prime minister resigns.

b. If it loses more than one-third of the members specified in its formation decree.

c. If the prime minister dies.

d. At the beginning of the term of the president.

e. At the beginning of the term of the legislature.

f. By a vote of no confidence by the legislature whether at the chamber's initiative or at the government's initiative.

2. The minister is fired by a decree signed by the president and the prime minister after the approval of the Council of Ministers.

3. When the government resigns or is considered resigned, the legislature is considered as a ruler in an extraordinary session until the formation of a new government and its obtaining a vote of confidence.

G. Abolition of Political Sectarianism:

The abolition of political sectarianism is a basic national aim toward which work should be carried out according to a step-by-step plan. The legislature, elected on the basis of half Muslims and half Christians, should adopt the necessary measures to achieve this aim. A national organization, headed by the president, should be formed. It should include, in addition to the speaker of the legislature and the prime minister, political, intellectual, and social personalities. The duty of the organization is to study and propose the necessary means to abolish sectarianism, to present these proposals to the Council of Ministers and the legislature, and to follow up the implementation of the step-by-step plan.

During the transitional stage, the following should be done:

1. The abolition of the principle of sectarian representation and adopting proficiency and personal qualities in appointment, in civil service, judiciary, military and security establishments, public and mixed institutions, and independent organizations according to the requirements of national reconciliation, with the exception of the first rank positions and their equivalent, which should be divided equally between Muslims and Christians without allocating any specific job to any sect.

2. The abolition of any mention of religion or sect in identity cards. III. Other Reforms:

A. Administrative Decentralization:

1. The Lebanese state is a single united state with strong centralized authority.

2. Extending the powers of governors and mayors and representing all state departments in the greatest possible form in the administrative regions to facilitate the services for the citizens and to respond to their needs locally.

3. Revising the administrative division to secure national cohesion and to preserve the joint coexistence and the unity of the people, land, and institutions.

4. Establishing extended administrative decentralization at the level of the minor administrative units—constituency and smaller—by electing a council for every constituency chaired by the mayor to secure the local participation.

5. Approving a comprehensive united development plan for the whole country, which should be able to develop

Lebanese regions economically and socially, and supporting the resources of the municipalities, united municipalities, and municipal unions with the necessary financial resources.

B. The Courts:

1. To secure that all officials and citizens are subject to the law and to secure the harmony of the work of both the legislative and executive authorities with the requirements of coexistence and the basic rights of the Lebanese specified by the Constitution:

a. The supreme council specified by the Constitution, whose job is the trial of presidents and ministers, should be formed, and a law for the principles of trials by it should be adopted.

b. A constitutional council for interpreting the Constitution, monitoring the constitutional status of laws, and deciding the contests and disputes stemming from the presidential and legislative elections should be formed.

c. The following sides have the right to consult the constitutional council about the interpretation of the Constitution and the monitoring of the constitutional status of law:

aa. The president,

bb. The speaker of the legislature,

cc. The prime minister, and

dd. A certain percentage of deputies.

d. To secure the principle of harmony between religion and state, the heads of Lebanese sects have the right to consult the constitutional council concerning:

aa. Personal statutes,

bb. The freedom of belief and to practice religious rites,

cc. Freedom of religious education.

e. To consolidate the independence of the judiciary, a certain number of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council should be elected from the Judiciary.

2. The law on legislative elections:

Legislative elections should be conducted according to a new elections law on the basis of provinces which takes into consideration the bases which secure coexistence for the Lebanese and secure the correctness of effectiveness of the political representation for all sectors and generations of the people. This is after reviewing the administrative divisions within the framework of the unity of the land, people, and institutions.

3. Formation of the Economic and Social Council for Development:

An economic and social council should be formed to secure the participation of the representatives of the various sectors in drafting the economic and social policy of the state through consultations and submitting proposals.

4. Education:

a. Providing education for everyone, and making it compulsory, at the primary stage at least.

b. Stressing the freedom of education according to public laws and regulations.

c. Protecting private education and consolidating the state supervision of private schools and school textbooks.

d. Reforming official, vocational, and technical education and consolidating and developing them to achieve cohesion and spiritual and cultural development and growth. Standardizing the books in the subjects of history and national education.

5. The Media:

Reorganizing the media under the law and within the framework of responsible freedom to serve reconciliation tendencies and ending the state of war.

Second. Extending the Sovereignty of the Lebanese State Over all Lebanese Territory:

In view of the fact that agreement has been reached among the Lebanese parties on the establishment of a strong and capable state based on the principle of national accord, the national accord government will lay down a security plan for 1 year, the objective of which will be to extend the authority of the Lebanese state gradually over all Lebanese territory with the aid of its internal forces, the broad outlines of which are as follows:

1. Declaration of the dissolution of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia, and their weapons to be handed to the Lebanese state within 6 months, starting after the endorsement of the National Accord document, the election of a president, and the formation of a national accord government, and constitutional endorsement of political reforms.

2. Consolidation of internal security forces by:

a. Opening the door of voluntary conscription to all Lebanese without exception, beginning their training centrally, and then allocating them to units in the governorates. They should also be attached to periodic and regular training courses.

b. Strengthening the security apparatus in a way that would conform to controlling the entry and exit of people across the border by land, sea, and air.

3. Consolidating the Armed Forces:

a. The basic duty of the armed forces is to defend the homeland, and when necessary protect public order when the danger exceeds the abilities of the internal security forces to deal with it on their own.

b. The armed forces are used to support the internal security forces in preserving security in circumstances decided by the Council of Ministers.

c. The armed forces should be united, prepared, and trained to be able to shoulder their national responsibilities in confronting Israeli aggression.

d. When the internal security forces are ready to shoulder their security duties, the armed forces should return to their barracks.

e. Military intelligence should be reorganized to serve military purposes and nothing else.

4. The problem of the Lebanese evacuees should be radically solved and the right of every Lebanese evacuee since 1975 to return to the place from which he was

evacuated should be guaranteed. Legislation to secure this right and to secure the necessary means for reconstruction of destroyed places should be issued.

Since the goal of the Lebanese state is to extend its authority over the entire Lebanese territory by means of its own forces represented primarily in the forces of internal security, and owing to the fraternal relations existing between Syria and Lebanon, the Syrian troops will graciously assist legitimate Lebanese forces to extend the authority of the Lebanese state within a limited period of time not exceeding 2 years after the ratification of the national accord document, the election of the president of the republic, the formation of a national accord government, and the confirmation of political reforms in the Constitution.

At the end of this period, the Syrian Government and the Lebanese Government of national accord will decide on the redeployment of Syrian troops in the al-Biq'a' region and the entry to the western al-Biq'a' at Dahr al-Baydar to the line al-Mudayrij-'Ayn Darah, or if need be at other points to be determined by a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee. The two governments will also agree to determine the number of Syrian troops to be deployed in the aforementioned areas and to define the nature of the relationship between these troops and the authorities of the Lebanese state in the areas where they will be deployed. In this respect, the higher Arab tripartite committee is prepared to assist the two states to reach such an agreement if they so wish.

Third. Liberating Lebanon From the Israeli Occupation:

Restoring state sovereignty up to the international borders with Israel requires the following:

1. Working toward the implementation of Resolution No. 425 and all the UN Security Council's resolutions specifying the complete removal of the Israeli occupation.

2. Insisting on the truce treaty signed on 23 March 1949.

3. Adopting all the necessary measures for liberating all Lebanese territories from Israeli occupation and spreading state authority on all of these territories, deploying the Lebanese Army to the borders with Israel, and working toward consolidating the international peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon to secure the Israeli withdrawal and to secure the opportunity for restoring security and stability to the border regions.

Fourth. Lebanese-Syrian Relations:

Lebanon, which is of Arab identity and belonging, is linked by sincere fraternal relations with all Arab countries. There are distinguished relations, which draw their strength from the roots of neighborhood, history, and joint strategic interests, between Lebanon and Syria. This concept is the base of coordination and cooperation between the two countries, and it will be manifested by joint treaties in all fields, which will serve the interests of the two sister countries within the framework of mutual independence and sovereignty. Because of this, and because consolidating the bases of security provides the

required atmosphere for developing these distinguished links, it is imperative that Lebanon not become a threat to Syrian security and Syria not become a threat to Lebanon's security, whatever the situation may be. Therefore Lebanon does not allow itself to be a passage for or a residence for any force, state, or organization which aims at violating Lebanese or Syrian security; and Syria, which is committed to the security, stability, and unity of Lebanon and the reconciliation of the Lebanese, does not allow any action which threatens the Lebanese security, independence, or sovereignty.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Political Adviser Criticizes U.S. Position

JN2310195789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Brother Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Brother Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the intifadah will continue and escalate despite all the brutal repression which it is suffering at the hands of the Zionist occupation army.

In a statement to the press published in Kuwait, he said the Zionist intelligence reports that the intifadah is eroding are lies and that the Palestinian leadership has dynamic plans of action because it represents an organized people that cannot ever be destroyed.

Brother Hani al-Hasan also criticized the U.S. position, saying that the Americans will not give us any of our rights, that they still believe the Palestinians are not needed as a nation, and that it is not necessary for them to have an independent political entity.

PNC Chairman on Israeli Contacts With PLO

LD2410093389 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0749 GMT
24 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Oct (KUNA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] chairman Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih disclosed today that Israel has direct and indirect contacts with the PLO. He stressed at the same time that any proposal from Israel would be accepted and examined in the light of fundamental Palestinian principles which cannot be conceded or neglected.

Shaykh al-Sayih said in an interview with Kuwait AL-SIYASAH that the Israeli contacts are carried out in "a timid way lest its people realize and lest they discover the weakness and embarrassment of Israel, and the economic, political, and military" effect of the uprising on it.

The PNC chairman expressed his acceptance of any proposal "from Israel or anyone else, and any mediation which we will examine in the light of our fundamental principles which cannot suffer any concession or neglect."

He refused to disclose any messages which arrived from the Israelis and said "we cannot reveal these matters,

because it would be appropriate to talk or disclose these matters only through determined frank and decisive stands."

In reply to a question whether these messages are from the Israeli Government he added, "we cannot talk about details. There are proposals made, and we will, in principle, accept anything that ensures our rights," he said.

The PNC chairman reiterated his support for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, and said we want "an effective and competent conference, which will be attended by the five permanent member-countries and which will review all the UN resolutions in connection with the Palestinian issue in order to issue a resolution to which all parties will be committed."

Replying a question from AL-SIYASAH the PNC speaker said "the organization did not drop the armed struggle but decided on the continuation of struggle by all available means, including politically. And if it was capable of regaining the legitimate Palestinian rights then there would be no need for violence or bloodshed," as he put it.

"However, he added "this should not prompt the U.S. Administration and Israel to understand that the organization would neglect the rights of its people to the extent that it will accept what this administration puts forward in response to the wishes of Israel, because this would mean a surrender and not peace, and this we would never accept."

The PNC speaker stressed that the elections inside the occupied Arab territories, as proposed by Israel, have been rejected and said "the PLO has not totally rejected the elections but it demands a democratic free elections through which the Palestinian people would be capable of expressing their opinion fully, and this is impossible to achieve under occupation."

He demanded elections under UN auspices and for such elections to be a link in the chain of the final settlement, stressing that the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and in setting up their independent state under the leadership of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people will not be a subject for bargaining or argument or even discussion.

He concluded his press interview by reiterating "we cannot accept what Israel wants, because it is we who decide on acceptance or rejection, and when a plan capable of protecting the rights of our people is put forward to us we will be prepared to study it and give our opinion on it"

PNC Speaker Leaves After Central Council Meetings

JN1810214289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT
18 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih

and his delegation left Baghdad this evening after chairing the meetings of the PLO Central Council, which were concluded in Baghdad on 16 October.

In a statement to INA, Shaykh al-Sa'ih expressed his joy and satisfaction over holding the PLO Central Council meetings in Baghdad while Iraq was enjoying victory and peace under President Saddam Husayn.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih indicated that the Council came up with positive and fruitful results that would enhance the PLO's role on all levels.

Officials Appeal to 'Arafat Concerning Kidnapping

*LD2110160189 Bern International Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Oct 89*

[Text] The all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has appealed to the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasir 'Arafat, to help trace the two ICRC employees who were kidnapped in Lebanon 2 weeks ago.

A spokesman in Geneva said a message from the ICRC president, Cornelio Sommaruga, had been delivered to PLO headquarters in Tunis by a special envoy.

It is not known who is holding the men, but reports have said they are being held in areas under the control of a radical Palestinian group, the Fatah Revolutionary Council. However, the Fatah Revolutionary Council has denied any involvement in the kidnapping.

'Abbas Interviewed on Peace Moves, Jordan Ties

*JN1710200789 London AL-QUDS AL-ARABI
in Arabic 14-15 Oct 89 p 5*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by Ghassan Zaqtan—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Zaqtan] Following the recent decision by the Israeli Cabinet and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statements excluding the PLO from a role in forming the Palestinian delegation to the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, where is the Egyptian initiative going and is it still workable?

['Abbas] First of all, there is no such thing as an Egyptian initiative. Even the Egyptians, and especially President Mubarak, have refused to use the term initiative when referring to the points the Egyptians present to Israel through a U.S. congressman as questions to which Israel had to provide answers. They later were sent through diplomatic channels, through the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. Therefore, what the Egyptians have put forth are questions seeking clarifications which they believe will end the political deadlock that resulted from the plan Shamir recently submitted. The problem does not lie in the Egyptian questions and the Israeli answers because the Israelis rejected these questions and did not respond positively to them. The problem lies in the first

step which the Israelis continue to reject. This first step is the formation of a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories for holding a dialogue. What I mean is that the Israelis have not accepted this first step. Therefore, everything that comes after it in terms of topics to be listed on the agenda—whether international parties should attend or not, and whether the United Nations should attend or not—is of no use since the basic issue, which is the formation of the Palestinian delegation, has as yet not been approved by Israel. The Americans are still holding a dialogue with the Israelis on this point, although they are not exerting too much effort or pressure to attain the first step that will lead to the realization of the steps that follow it. I do not believe that Baker's proposal to hold a dialogue among Egypt, Israel, and the United States in this respect could bring speedy results, because members of the Israeli Government are divided among themselves. This became evident during the ministerial meeting it held when six Likud ministers rejected the idea and six Labor ministers approved it. This means paralysis. This serves Shamir, who wants to postpone all these topics until after he visits Washington to gain time, since he has nothing to say at the present time.

[Zaqtan] One notices that the tone the United States uses with Israel has become a bit sharp. In spite of this, the U.S. has retracted its stand on the essence, particularly with respect to the formation of the Palestinian delegation for a dialogue, since the United States completely excluded the PLO and entrusted the task of forming this delegation to itself, Egypt, and Israel. What impact will this have on the forthcoming fifth session of dialogue between the Palestinian and the United States, if ever such a session is to be held?

['Abbas] Such a U.S. stand does not give momentum to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. The rigidity of the U.S. stance, or its failure to act in a positive and speedy manner, reflects on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Perhaps a fifth round will be held soon, and if the U.S. stand remains as it is, then what topics could one submit for discussion?

We have explicitly stated our stand in this respect. We said that we will accept no dialogue unless Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories participate in it. Even though the Americans do not reject this point in particular, they have not yet announced their explicit stand on it.

[Zaqtan] What could the topics for discussion be since from the very beginning we have not progressed one step forward? Where does Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's invitation fall in this case?

['Abbas] This is not the first time that the Soviets have proposed this idea. It was proposed practically during Shevardnadze's last visit to Cairo. He proposed it to Moshe Arens. He also proposed it to us. At that time, we declared our approval of it. As for Arens, he received these proposals from Shevardnadze, but he neither

accepted nor refused them. Shevardnadze repeated his initiative in New York and we repeated our immediate approval of it. We also affirmed it as in the last time. This initiative consists of a meeting between the PLO and Israel in Moscow. I believe that the Soviet initiative falls within the framework of activating the situation and putting an end to the stalemate controlling it because of the Israeli stand.

[Zaqtan] Therefore, the stalemate continues despite the Egyptian and Soviet attempts to activate things. It seems that the cause is the present Israeli Government formation. It is a stalemate which has turned into an Israeli tactic and could last. On the other hand, does the PLO have something to propose as a mechanism to activate the political situation, in addition, of course, to the intifadah?

[Abbas] The intifadah is not a mechanism in the narrow sense of the word. It is an incentive to take action in the region. It is an activator, a catalyst, to attain peace. And within this framework, it helps international public opinion move in this direction. We notice, for example, that Europe has a sound stand on the issue of activating peace in the Middle East. The Soviet Union, the socialist countries, the nonaligned countries, the African countries, the Islamic countries; almost all countries are moving in this direction because they know that the Middle East region is one of the tensest and most dangerous regions in the world. Therefore, an appropriate solution must be found. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination has become something that goes without saying in all these countries.

As for us, we have provided everything we can to facilitate the peace process. The problem lies in the Israeli mind and not in us. The problem is that Shamir finds himself in a comfortable situation, which is that he is able to obstruct any movement because of the division within the Israeli Government. This fits in with his attitude which rejects a political settlement in the Middle East. He has expressed this a number of times by saying: I will not do anything, and I shall leave it up to my successors to perform such an operation. So long as this is his attitude and way of thinking, the current situation—that is, the paralysis in the Israeli Government—sets a comfortable background for him. There now remains the interaction inside the Israeli Government or the Israeli parties—the interaction that is expected to be the prime mover in the direction of the Israeli Government. The government will either resign, or dissolve parliament, or something will happen inside Israel. Without such a move, it will be difficult to activate things.

[Zaqtan] There is a marked development in the PLO's coordination with Jordan, which is now experiencing a semi-transformational period. This is accompanied by statements issued by Egyptian officials on a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation which will be the framework of a solution. Can we expect some activity through Jordan,

an initiative for example, to break the stalemate controlling political activity in the region?

[Abbas] There is no political process that could take place through Jordan now. After deciding to disengage ties, Jordan announced that the cause now is that of the Palestinians, the Palestinian people's cause, and that the PLO is the speaker on behalf of this people. This declaration constituted good grounds for Palestinian-Jordanian coordination. In other words, we are now reaching an understanding on all political issues or we now agree over all political issues. Jordan's role is that of helper of the PLO to promote Palestinian stands and ideas on an international level.

This is what happened when Prince Hasan traveled to the United States carrying Palestinian ideas and a Palestinian card to defend the Palestinians in front of the Americans. On the other hand, the Palestinian-Jordanian coordination came after our failure to effect a five-sided coordination among the five parties concerned about an international conference. These parties are Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO. This is what we have been calling for for more than 2 years. We called for this at the Algiers summit and then at the Casablanca summit. Having failed to achieve that, we turned to bilateral talks and coordination with Jordan and Egypt. Regarding the issue of a confederation, we have frequently asserted that we are ready to establish a confederation with Jordan after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Nothing new has been introduced on these viewpoints, ideas, and decisions. Nobody has asked us to change them and we are not ready to change them.

[Zaqtan] Signs of solving the Lebanese crisis are looming on the horizon. The Lebanese parliament is meeting in Saudi Arabia and the Arab tripartite committee is actively working to implement its resolutions amid an almost complete Arab unanimity. What in your opinion are the effects of this relaxation of Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Abbas] First of all, I do not agree with you that there are signs of a solution in Lebanon. The point from which those seeking a solution have started is wrong. They should have first of all studied means to restore the legitimate institutions to Lebanon, or, in other words, how to have one president, one prime minister, and a parliament. Failure to discuss this issue first means a long time will be needed to look for a solution to the Lebanese problem. It is true that the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee to achieve a cease-fire and halt violations and arms shipments and other excesses are currently effective on the ground, but this is not the solution. It is better to wait for the outcome of the Lebanese parliament's meeting. If no practical steps have been taken to restore legitimacy to these institutions, no solution can be reached. In other words, the mistake lies in looking for constitutional and political reforms before looking for legitimacy. A legitimacy must be created first, after which political and constitutional

reforms can be discussed. Certainly, the situation in Lebanon affects Palestinian-Syrian relations. However, regardless of its current effects, there are Syrian and Palestinian efforts and desires to normalize relations. In this regard we say that there are two points which must be settled. The first point is to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners held in Syrian prisons. We do not find a convincing reason or justification for keeping them in prison. The second point is to agree over a political basis. The political basis is our resolutions adopted at the Palestine National Council sessions. We reject debates over these resolutions because they have been endorsed by our legitimate institutions and approved by Arab institutions and summits. Therefore, no Arab side—Syrian or non-Syrian—has the right to debate the soundness of these resolutions. Hence our adherence to our political stands. If the Syrians want any relations with us, these relations must be based on these grounds. [passage omitted]

'Abbas Comments on U.S. Role, Egyptian Moves

NC2210221689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT
22 Oct 89

[Text] Moscow, 22 Oct (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has emphasized that the PLO leadership is convinced that Egypt's goal is to achieve a solution to the [Palestinian] issue that is satisfactory to the Palestinian people.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Moscow, 'Abbas said: We are in agreement on most of the steps we take, and coordination exists between us and the brothers in Egypt.

Abu-Mazin added that following Israel's rejection of the Egyptian 10 points and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's 5 points, and following the [Palestinian] Central Council's meetings and consultations with our brothers, we drew up the points, which were then announced by the Central Council, on how to start the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue that is to be held in the future, which Israel continues to reject in principle and, perhaps, context as well.

Mahmud 'Abbas added that the obstacle to the solution lies in the fact that the United States has not so far played a convincing role in bringing pressure to bear on

Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories or to start the required peace process in the Middle East region.

Abu Mazin noted that the joint Palestinian-Soviet committee, which holds a meeting almost monthly in Moscow or Tunis to assess the situation, contacts, and facts regarding the Palestinian issue, will hold a meeting on Monday in order to follow up and discuss the [results of] the contacts Soviet officials had in the United States as well as the [?contacts] that have taken place on the Arab or American levels, so as to coordinate Palestinian-Soviet action and work out the necessary plans for the future....

Official Raps U.S. 'Backtracking' on Settlement

PM2310080989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 2

[Layla Dib report: "Palestinian Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The PLO Refuses To Turn Peace Into a Maneuver or a Capitulationist Game"]

[Text] Amman—Palestine Central Council [PCC] member Dr As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman has said that the current U.S.-Israeli position is totally opposed to any just and comprehensive settlement of the region's conflict.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT upon his return to the Jordanian capital from Baghdad, where the PCC met, he said that that U.S.-Israeli attitude might continue for a long time.

Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman added that the PLO rejects any attempt to turn the peace process into a game or a maneuver. The PLO, he said, will put an end to all games and maneuvers once it is sure of their real intentions because it refuses to take part in any games and because anyone seriously working for a just and comprehensive peace will not tolerate any maneuvers or games geared to making the peace process a one-sided capitulationist process.

PCC Member Dr As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman spoke of U.S. backtracking, since the fourth session of U.S.-PLO dialogue, from the previous positive stands taken by U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. However, he added, the recent PCC statement, which was drafted with a high sense of responsibility, did not clearly express disappointment and shock at the U.S. retreat in the hope that Washington would change its position and distance itself from the intransigent Likud position backed by the Kissinger clique in the U.S. State Department and National Security Council.

Egypt**'Arafat Leaves Cairo After Meeting Mubarak 23 Oct***NC2310171489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Cairo this evening at the end of a 1-day visit, during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Ambassador Sami Thabit, head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative, saw the Palestinian president off at Cairo Airport.

Source Comments on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks*NC2310141289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a second session of talks at the Presidential Palace today.

Representing Egypt at the meeting were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Faqi, the president's executive and information secretary.

Attending the meeting for the Palestinian side were Salah Khalaf, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

A responsible source at the Presidential Palace has stated that, during the second session of talks, which lasted more than an hour, the two delegations examined the current initiatives and proposals on the Palestinian issue, including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals.

The source said continuous consultations are going on between President Mubarak and 'Arafat and that views are identical, noting that Egypt does not set forth any proposals or ideas without consulting the Palestinians.

The source affirmed that the Palestinians are determined to continue to activate the peace process despite the Israeli practices and escalation of suppression.

Further Comments on Talks*NC2310161289 Cairo MENA in English 1346 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Excerpts] Cairo, Oct. 23 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held their second round of talks here this afternoon. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on the Palestinian side's stand vis-a-vis U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five points, the source said that the Palestinian side did not reject Baker's proposals but there were some queries for which they have the right to get answers.

The source noted that Egypt was helping the Palestinian side to get such answers.

To another question on what had been discussed during the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting, the source said that both sides were in agreement over the concepts and opinions and pointed out that Egypt does not forward any proposals unless they are approved by the Palestinian side.

The source also said that Egypt will make contacts in the coming few days to get answers to queries posed by the Palestinian side. He further affirmed the Palestinian side's determination to continue to activate the peace process inspite of the Israeli practices and escalated oppression in the occupied territories.

Mubarak Phones King Fahd on Lebanese Agreement*NC2410132789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 24 Oct 89*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has praised the great efforts exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques to help the Lebanese parties attain a formula for national accord and achieve good results at the al-Ta'if meetings. This came in a telephone conversation which President Mubarak conducted with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, at noon today. The president affirmed Egypt's desire to achieve stability in Lebanon and its hope that this agreement will be the beginning of a new chapter in the solution of the Lebanese issue. President Mubarak also praised the personal efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques in ensuring the Arab tripartite committee's success in this regard.

Mubarak Telephones Bendjedid, King Husayn*NC2310133089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid this morning. The two presidents discussed several issues of vital importance to both countries.

President Mubarak then telephoned King Husayn of Jordan and discussed the recent developments in the region with him. The telephone call came as part of the constant consultations between the two Arab leaders.

Talks With Libya 'Rectification' of Situation*JN2310084289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
21 Oct 89 p 1*

[Article by chief editor Ibrahim Nafi: "Mubarak and al-Qadhafi and the Return to History"]

[Text] Just as natural phenomena need explanation only if they become anomalous, so is the case with the resumption of relations of good neighborliness and cooperation between Egypt and Libya. The Mubarak-al-Qadhdhafi meetings in Marsah Matruh and Tubruq also do not need to be explained because this is the rule, and the estrangement that existed between the neighbor Arab countries which are bound by historical and geographic considerations, was the exception. The exception cannot last forever.

President Mubarak met with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi during the Arab summit in Casablanca. The meeting revealed that there are more points of agreement than of disagreement between the two countries, and that the points of disagreement do not prevent the establishment of relations of good neighborliness and cooperation between the two people and countries. This resulted in the reopening of borders, and the resumption of flights. The overwhelming popular rejoicing over these steps confirmed that these steps have come to reflect a popular desire in the two countries, as well as their sincere desire effectively to improve relations and resume contacts.

Then came Mubarak's meeting with al-Qadhdhafi in Marsah Matruh 16 years after the interruption of such meetings. The Mubarak-al-Qadhdhafi meeting in Tubruq did not take place as some had imagined. The meetings in Marsah Matruh and Tubruq had been prepared a long time ago. Only the appropriate date needed to be set. This date was decided upon in a telephone contact between Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was held in the form and on the date agreed upon. I can say that its results were positive for both countries.

In my opinion, the most important outcome of these meetings is that they have confirmed one of the realities of contemporary international politics. This is that the stands of two countries need not be identical for them to cooperate and improve their relations. For the record, the two parties did not set this as a condition. Any two neighbor countries seek to improve their relations despite differences that may exist between them. They focus their attention on spheres which interest them, such as facilitating travel, residence, freedom of work, economic cooperation, and the flow of goods between them. If this is the case with respect to neighbor countries which are bound together only by relations of good neighborliness, how then should it be between two countries such as Egypt and Libya?

The two meetings have revealed that they are another link in the golden era of Mubarak's rule. Mubarak has spared no effort to complete Arab cooperation between Egypt and all Arab countries, without exception, and this is manifested in a policy of gradually improving and enhancing relations while focusing on areas that advance the interests of the two countries.

There is no talk of immediate or full unity, because it is not natural for relations to move overnight from total

estrangement to unity. Nor, is there talk of immediate or unexpected measures. Rather, the talk is about expanding aspects of cooperation in a way that serves the two peoples and creates a sort of gradual intermingling of interests to make return to estrangement in the future impossible.

What happened was a rectification of a situation rather than a creation of a new one. This is perhaps what Col al-Qadhdhafi meant when he told the Egyptian delegation to the talks that the rift between Egypt and Libya greatly disturbed the Arab map, and that healing this rift would restore much balance and soundness to this map.

We agree with this and believe that healing this rift will have a great impact on the Arab map and situation; it will have positive implications for Arab attitudes toward regional issues, especially the principal Arab cause in Palestine. It will also reflect positively on the situation in Africa and on the relationship between two of the biggest Arab economic blocks—the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. This, in fact, is the first geographical and political interaction between the two blocks.

What I would like to stress here is that Col al-Qadhdhafi, during the two meetings, was open to cooperation with Egypt in the way it deems appropriate for it, and that President Mubarak elaborated on Egypt's views on Arab issues. It was clear that President Mubarak believed in and was using his balanced and rational policy, which time and experience have proved wise and sound. In this concept, the two countries can indeed build a high edifice of cooperation between them; differences cannot prevent the construction of this edifice. When opinions differ, all issues can be discussed calmly, rationally, and peacefully. In all this, President Mubarak was true to himself, policy, history, and the heritage of his country.

The coming days, undoubtedly, will witness further cooperation and rapprochement. The ministers of the two countries will hold periodic meetings to put the agreement into effect, and the presidents will hold a summit whenever this is necessary. After all this, we leave it to history to judge the continuation and entrenchment of this cooperation, which returns the situation between Egypt and Libya to normal and heals a rift that contradicted all factors of history and geography for 16 full years; the time has come for this rift to disappear in the interest of the two peoples and countries.

AL-AHRAM Hails Reconciliation With Libya

JN2310054089 *Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic*
20 Oct 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Positive Results and a New Leaf"]

[Text] The positive results of the talks held by President Husni Mubarak and President Mu'ammār al-Qadhdhafi during the Marsa Matruh and Tubruq summits were received with deep satisfaction and given a warm welcome in Arab capitals. Every one views these results as

an important achievement supporting Arab solidarity and creating the necessary movement to confront the dangerous challenges facing the Arab nation on the regional and international levels.

It was clear from the first moment of the arrival of the Libyan leader in Marsa Matruh that the Egyptian-Libyan summit would produce positive and fruitful results, because those who closely monitored the meeting between President Mubarak and President al-Qadhafi realized that the mutual feelings of cordiality and respect would overcome any obstacles. They said that during their meeting at the Casablanca summit conference in May, the two leaders adopted a rational approach based on the deep-rooted relations between the two countries and on their belief that a quiet dialogue and direct understanding can remove any differences.

Truthfully, the Egyptian and Libyan leaders went to the Marsa Matruh and Tubruq summits with open hearts and minds and were determined to defeat all the pessimistic predictions put about by some anti-Arab circles, which speculated that the Egyptian-Libyan differences were too deep to be solved. But these circles forgot that since President Mubarak assumed his responsibilities, Egypt has been pursuing a wise and rational policy aimed at improving Egypt's relations with all countries, foremost of which are its fraternal Arab countries, regardless of differences and different viewpoints because the higher Arab interests and the bilateral interests should rise above any differences.

Today we can confidently say that a new stage in Egyptian-Libyan relations has been opened and that the assets of the Arab nation have been increased and strengthened through the unity of ranks and objectives. This has been reflected by the outcome of the Marsa Matruh and Tubruq summits in the form of resolutions and tangible steps to be taken by the two states to advance cooperation serving the goals of development and to open the door for integration and coordination in various fields.

In fact, barriers have been removed, and citizens of the two countries are now allowed to use identity cards to cross the border between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to link their telecommunications networks and build a railway between al-Sallumm and Tubruq as a first phase for linking the two countries by railways, rationalizing and organizing shipping between the two countries, and improving roads to facilitate the movement of people and goods.

We are also confident that the two countries are sincerely and honestly implementing the 10 points stated in the Tubruq summit's joint communique because the two sides deeply believe that there is no alternative to integration and cooperation in an age that is dominated by large economic blocs.

The joy that overwhelmed our Arab nation prompts us to reiterate the call that the example of the Egyptian-Libyan cooperation in ending differences should be a

model for the entire Arab homeland in settling artificial differences between any two Arab capitals, because the restoration of the Arab nation's weight, role, and power depends first of all on accord and reconciliation among all Arab countries.

We believe that the sound and logical course for ending Arab differences is the course Egypt has followed and has called on others to follow, namely, noninterference in others' internal affairs, because each country can determine the best way to serve its interests and run its affairs.

'Follow-Up Bureaus' To Open in Cairo, Tripoli

NC2210155289 *Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
1230 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Dr 'Isma' 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has disclosed that measures are now under way to open follow-up bureaus in Cairo and Tripoli, which had been agreed to by President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhafi.

'Abd-al-Majid said their inauguration is expected to take place in the coming days. He added that the bureau chief will take with him a letter of credit from the foreign minister. The chief will carry out many duties, foremost of which will be following up the implementation of the Tubruq declaration on promoting relations between Egypt and Libya in various fields as well as sponsoring the affairs of both countries' nationals.

AL-AKHBAR on Hopes for Egypt-Libya Cooperation

JN2110192889 *Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic*
19 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Bright Landmark in Arab Relations"]

[Text] The broad Egyptian-Libyan understanding reached during talks between President Husni Mubarak and leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq and the resulting bilateral cooperation agreements are a bright landmark in relations between the two sisterly countries. This understanding and these agreements will dispel the darkness that shrouded these relations for many years and robbed the two peoples of opportunities that could have greatly benefited them. Now that things have returned to normal, as President Mubarak has rightly said, we must look forward to the future.

There is no doubt that there are countless fields of cooperation between Cairo and Tripoli which could result in some sort of integration and a further consolidation of ties now that the chance for work in a good atmosphere has arisen. We fully hope that quick and serious action will be taken to make up for what has been lost and to give both peoples tangible and conclusive evidence of what sincere cooperation can offer two neighboring countries with a common religion, language, and heritage. Cooperation can provide great opportunities to enhance historical ties and set an example for

Arab action that is aimed primarily at exploiting resources and potential in the interest of the Arab nation.

The 10 agreements signed by Egypt and Libya involve large spheres that face no obstacles. All of them serve the aims of development in the two states and open the door for other fields of cooperation. They also pave the way for further rapprochement and cohesion between the two peoples, enhance their aspirations for a brighter future, and increase employment opportunities for citizens of both countries where expertise and resources combine to serve the joint ventures that bolster the two countries' economies.

What is required now is immediately to begin to implement these agreements as an example of the advantages of Arab cooperation within the framework of common desire and sincere intentions.

Editor Assesses Marsa Matruh, Tubruq Talks

JN2110165589 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 19 Oct 89 pp 1, 3

[Article by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "A Policy and Not an Adventure"]

[Text] Once again, "summit diplomacy" has proven that it is capable of doing wonders in a short time and of turning a new leaf to make up for what was lost in the past. It has proven that it is capable of making decisive decisions and of opening new vistas into the present and the future, displaying effectiveness and forcefulness. Once again, "summit diplomacy" has proven that it produces sound decisions guided by a perspective. It has also shown that holding direct and frank encounters is the best form of talks as long as the goodwill is there and as long as there is a political will to implement what is agreed upon and to initiate a change in trend and action to allow for launching a new phase that falls in line with the new dawn, with the requirements for change, development, and movement and that also responds to the people's aspirations and interests.

The meetings held between Presidents Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi in Marsa Matruh in Egypt and in Tubruq in Libya are a living example of the "summit diplomacy" which has produced a formidable turnabout in Egyptian-Libyan ties and also in inter-Arab ties. Nay, these meetings marked a significant turn in the regional situation and also in its political and strategic ramifications. I do not want to be the one who jumps to make hasty conclusions or to be one who is taking a big leap into the unknown. I do not want to be viewed as one indulging in an overoptimism whose signs have not been seen yet. I am neither a policymaker nor pretend to be one. However, I am a keen observer who closely follows events and developments; and we are an integral part of these developments. I am a reader of events who analyses these events, developments, and facts not as isolated events or developments which have come to look at us in the face all of a sudden. On the contrary, I am a reader of events who closely follows them and relates them to the

recent and remote past. These events are effective and are capable of changing the present and the status of ties. These events can draw up and chart a new course for the future.

I am a reader of events who analyses these events, taking into account that these events will be the initiators of changes on the ground and in the people's hearts and minds. The changes on the ground will affect the entire Arab homeland and the territory of the two countries. These developments will also affect people, our peoples within their countries, within their regional entities. They will also influence their pan-Arab sentiments.

Hence, our reading of yesterday's events and developments in the Egyptian city of Marsa Matruh and the Libyan city of Tubruq is a reading inspired by and based on an accurate knowledge of past events. This reading also reflects a forceful interaction with current developments and a farsighted and optimistic view of the future.

As a matter of fact, the meetings held in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq, the understanding reached there, and the agreements signed on the implementation of scores of programs in various spheres of bilateral cooperation delineate the framework of this cooperation and the structure of this cooperation during this "new phase". All this is not actually a turnabout in politics, orientation, and moves inasmuch as it is a development in the relations of two countries whose cooperation is dictated by geographic factors and by the fact that belong to the same nation and that they have one destiny. What ruins this relationship, suspends meetings, and terminates cooperation is the exception and not the rule.

This status of exception might be long and protracted. However, this status can never be viewed as "a determinant" and a kingpin in this relationship. Egypt and Libya, and for that matter the entire Arab world are not the only parties who had differences. No, they are a part of the same world, partners living on the same planet with its land, air, and food and its human "chemistry" which gives rise to "clashes and confrontations" and then heals wounds through "reconciliation and accord". This is almost the natural course of events which the entire universe has experienced. It is almost a law.

We are all witnessing the era of "international detente" and the era of cooperation between the countries and blocs which used to confront each other and clash with each other in the past. I think that it would be a big mistake if our march is retarded, if our moves are slowed, and if we fail to realize that we are a part of all that is going on around us. And here lies the great awareness of the political leadership and its understanding of the big changes currently taking place. Here we see a leadership holding the reins of initiative and catching up with current changes.

Would we be exaggerating if we say that the political Egyptian leadership, and specifically President Mubarak, has since the beginning been aware of this upheaval which is engulfing the world, seeking to change

it, reshape it, and dismantle its alliances? Would we be exaggerating if we say that this prompted President Mubarak to remove the links of the siege and the chains of estrangement and animosity, one link and after another, demonstrating resolve, determination, tolerance, and patience? Would we be exaggerating if we say that this prompted him to reconsider his calculations, settle differences, and establish a balance in Egypt's international and Arab relations?

The outcome today is that there is no world state that is in a state of animosity or clash with Egypt, at least as far as Egyptian thinking and calculations are concerned.

Anyhow, let us go back to the beginning of our talk, to the attempt to read and analyze the outcome of the talks held in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq. We would like to say that these talks will have a great effect in pushing strategic inter-Arab and regional ties forward. Besides, these talks will also have a direct impact on the two countries and peoples. I was afraid that some might think of me as an erratic person bent on blowing things out of proportion or of making leaps "into the unknown."

Simple study of certain reactions to the "understanding" and "compatibility" which took place over the past 2 days on Egyptian and then Libyan territory may give some clarifications to what we are saying and may have contributed in justifying and explaining what we deduced about the importance of what happened in Tubruq and Marsa Matruh.

The U.S. Administration and the U.S. radio, as well as the British radio and press, the French press and [Radio] Monte Carlo, and others have followed the event with great interest and, at the same time, with great anxiety.

The U.S. State Department's spokesman did not hesitate in stating clearly in a news conference his country's reservation about and even its objection to this Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement and about this "warm meeting" between Mubarak and al-Qadhafi.

True, he tried to "make up for it," and said: "Of course, this is a matter of interest to the Egyptian sovereignty and it is not right for us to intervene in it. And this is a free and independent decision of the Egyptian leadership. But, this is our opinion which we declare frankly. We do not trust al-Qadhafi, and our information confirms that he has not abandoned his policy to encourage and carry out terrorism."

At the same time, AFP transmits a carefully "leaked" news dispatch. The time to transmit it was carefully chosen to coincide with the Marsa Matruh meeting between Mubarak and al-Qadhafi. The dispatch says that AFP's confirmed information, which was obtained from an informed source, say that al-Qadhafi has sent more than 700 soldiers and guns and tanks to Somalia to back Siad Barre's disintegrating regime. AFP then concludes that this information confirms once again that the Libyan colonel has not abandoned his militaristic policy.

Its truth or falsehood notwithstanding, this story about Siad Barre and "al-Qadhafi's soldiers" which AFP circulated began to be distributed by foreign radios and press in an attempt to question the usefulness of the meeting, the understanding, the reconciliation, and the cooperation which Egypt and Libya started. Such circulated talk is a continuation of the attempts to intimidate and frighten. They are also a continuation of the attempts to impose custodianship in an age when this custodianship has ended, especially with states that got rid of it and regained their free will many years ago.

Strangely, this takes place when there is no longer anything forbidden here or there. U.S. President Bush travels freely from Warsaw to Budapest, and will travel to Moscow early next year. He also travels everywhere. Communist Poland puts at the head of its executive power a noncommunist prime minister and Hungary allows the setting up of noncommunist parties. The Stalinist Honecker, the leader of East Germany, one year ago travelled to West Germany and visited the village in which he was born and those who remained of his family.

The changes are enormous and the movement is allowed without hurdles or taboos. Laws of the past and its rules and taboos are disintegrating and falling everywhere. And, attempts against us have not ceased with the aim of imposing taboos or custodianship against us.

In conclusion, the Egyptian moves, action, and meetings constitute a "policy," and not an "adventure." They constitute a "brave decision," and not a "recklessness" dictated by a certain crisis or situation.

Mubarak's policy in government, politics, and administration is a "calculated action" and a "national and pan-Arab commitment." It is never a leap into the unknown.

In its simple and direct meaning, politics means the ability to "politicize," to "lead," to take the initiative, and to take advantage of the opportunity and the circumstance. It also means the ability to quickly realize the dimensions of the change and developments and to employ all of this to the benefit of the peoples and countries without fear or hesitation and away from the custodianship of anyone.

Politics is the "art of the possible." It means an exact consideration of the time, place, and circumstance. This is simply what took place in Marsa Matruh and Torbuk. And, this is what we expect in the coming days—action, activity, and work on the ground and among the people, organs, and official and unofficial institutions.

Following the meeting, Mubarak announced that every subject, issue, and state of affairs discussed and studied during the meeting was subjected to an open and free debate, which was based on logic, persuasion, and good intentions and whose objective was the supreme interest even if interpretations and methods to achieve this were different. Hence there was the meeting, the accord, and

the understanding on that which was "agreed upon" and on that on which "there are differences" on methods to achieve it.

President al-Qadhdhafi said that we will not fall again into the trap of "divide and rule" and we will not allow anyone to obstruct our unity and cooperation.

This was the spirit of the meeting and its achievement. On the basis of that spirit, instructions were issued by the two presidents to senior aides—ministers, specialists, and officials—to immediately formulate a program of action. Thus, they were asked to quickly settle things and follow up the implementation because time must not be wasted.

Finally, and within the context of what we are saying today, we can recall a strategic "theory" whose origins are foreign and which was adopted by the West during one theoretical age. In substance, that theory is based on the notion which says that Libya—with its expansive area, low population density, and huge oil and economic resources—should remain a buffer zone between East and West. For this theory to be sound, a state of hostility must remain between Egypt and Libya whether this hostility is a negative quarrel or hostility or a hot conflict, which is inflamed by beamed propaganda and fabricated hostilities and conflicts.

I believe that although it remained the mainstay of thinking and politics for some of us and for others, this strategy no longer exists on the ground after the Marsa Matruh and Tubruq meetings—or that is what we hope.

Again, the meeting between Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi in Libya and Egypt is not a mere adventure as some like to claim, but is something done from the heart of life and politics.

Arab Solidarity After Meetings With Libya Viewed

NC2110095089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Mamduh Isma'il commentary: "Egypt, Peace, and Arab Cohesion Are the Foundations for Facing Tomorrow's World"]

[Text] Political perception and logic will lead any observer of events and major changes in the Arab world from the ocean to the Gulf in the past few years to an awareness that the Arab countries have embarked on a new phase, which may be described as Arab reconciliation. To state it simply, the Arab countries have developed from divided and fragmented entities into a closely and neatly threaded necklace, thanks to rationalism, understanding, and coordination in various fields, particularly the economic and political ones.

The signs of this reconciliatory phase were manifest in Egypt's return to its natural place at the center of the Arab nation, the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and the Casablanca Arab summit, which

witnessed the peak of Arab agreement on Arab relations and national and international issues. At that summit, the Arabs appeared as one cohesive group seeking a common goal.

This interaction within the Arab nation embodies an Arab awakening which has shaken off slumber and inactivity. It was motivated by internal as well as external factors. The first of these factors was Egypt, Mubarak's Egypt. In the course of 8 years, Egypt's people and leadership adopted an integrated philosophy and mentality which was reflected in a foreign policy based on peace and noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries. The goal of this policy was to regain Egypt's place in the front rank of the Islamic world, Arab nation, and African continent, and, finally, in the wider international circle of the Nonaligned Movement. Egypt established balanced relations with both the East and the West and adopted balanced stands on Arab issues. It relinquished no right or piece of land and gained the respect of the international community. Through its unshakable faith and its patience, which never gave up under any pressure, provocation, or desperate situation, Egypt resumed its Arab role as an older sister, gaining new ground every day.

Mubarak believed, and still believes, in the importance of direct meetings with Arab and world leaders, because such meetings address both the mind and the heart and thus establish a formula for understanding and dialogue instead of differences and accusations. Thus the ice melts, warmth returns to bilateral relations, and the march begins along a common road.

President Mubarak's meetings with President al-Qadhdhafi [title as heard] in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq provided the best concrete evidence of the success of this approach in dealing with brothers and friends. Arab and international reactions to those meetings further confirmed this fact by highlighting them and viewing them as having added to Arab solidarity.

The second factor is the principle of peace, which is deeply rooted in Arab policy. It came in response to the spirit of international detente which renounces war and favors peaceful settlements. This principle was partly applied in the Arab nation, through stopping the Iraq-Iran war, making efforts to find a political solution for the Lebanese problem, launching international efforts to resolve the western Sahara dispute, and making collective Arab efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

The third factor is economic progress and development, which were placed at the top of the list of world concerns, and the emergence of regional economic bodies which will have an effect on the international economy and world markets in the near future. Arabs had to respond to these changes in view of their geographic location which controls international transport arteries, as well as their enormous resources. The ACC, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the earlier Gulf Cooperation Council were established to represent Arab economic entities which

must stimulate further Arab cohesion under the umbrella of the Arab League. The ultimate goal was to create an Arab economic power which could defend Arab progress and development.

We can affirm that the wheel will keep on turning forward and that it will never go into reverse. All that Arab leaders need is to be alert and aware of what goes on around them and to strengthen their current cohesion, because not everyone in the arena is pleased at their understanding and solidarity.

AL-AKHBAR Chief Editor on Arab Accord

*JN2110175789 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
19 Oct 89 p 1*

[Article by chief editor Sa'id Sunbul: "Will Common Sense Prevail?"]

[Text] It is clear that the Arab arena recently has been witnessing a state of accord and reconciliation among the Arab states following long years of differences and conflicts.

Perhaps the most recent sign of this accord was the meeting that was held between Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, which stressed the need to settle differences through dialogue and by resorting to reason, and not through accusations, insults, or a propaganda war, which fragments and splits.

Although it is premature now to judge the future of Libyan-Egyptian relations, we have a great hope that these relations will be resumed after having been severed for long years, and that they will be strengthened, developed, and deepened in the interest of the Libyan and Egyptian people.

What is noted is that signs of the state of accord prevailing in the Arab arena these days started turning up with Iran's acceptance of cease-fire in its war with Iraq. The state of accord was consolidated with the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council that includes Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic, and then the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union which includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania. The state of accord was deepened at the Casablanca summit which was held in Morocco last May, and at which Egypt restored its normal position among the Arabs and in the Arab League after long years of estrangement. At this summit, reconciliation was also achieved between Egypt and Libya.

When we compare what is taking place in the Arab arena and what was taking place in the near past, we will see that a big change has taken place in stands and relations. Excluding the situation in Lebanon and the existing differences among Syria and some other Arab states and forces, we can say that the situation in the Arab world is now better than it was in the recent past.

Still, we should say that the Arab peoples agree and do not differ on the inevitability of unity. All the Arab regimes raise the slogan of unity, and all sides agree that unity and cooperation constitute the source of strength and the end of weakness and backwardness. So, what is the problem? The problem is that some Arab regimes, regrettably, believe that the means to achieve Arab strength lies in interfering in the affairs of the other Arab states and in attempting to impose hegemony on them and subjugate them.

This is the big mistake that we have made, which some of us are still making, and which has led to our fragmentation, discord, and backwardness. Lebanon is the strongest example of what some states' interference in other states' affairs can lead to.

Has the time not become ripe to realize that respecting others' rights, rational dialogue, understanding through words and not through bullets, and mutual cooperation among the Arab states is the only way that can lead us to the future and save us from the darkness of the past?

AL-AKHBAR Commends Egypt-Libya Accord

*JN2010163889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
18 Oct 89 p 5*

[Editorial: "A Step in the Interest of All Arabs"]

[Text] The meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and the cordial and brotherly feelings that prevailed in the meeting and which have permeated the Egyptian-Libyan ties since ancient times present fresh evidence that any problem between any two sisterly Arab states can be solved through calm dialogue and direct understanding that removes any differences, regardless of their severity and endurance. The ties linking the states of the Arab nation are too strong and solid to be shaken or obscured by a passing dispute.

At one time, many wagered that the Egyptian-Libyan dispute would reach more serious stages. However, Egypt's policy toward all fraternal Arab countries, and even toward all world countries no matter how different their policies and trends are from those of Egypt, have disappointed those who were expecting more tension to occur between Cairo and Tripoli. Indeed, Egypt had and still has a solid belief that any differences between any two Arab countries cannot last for long, and that the ties of blood, brotherhood, and common interests will eventually triumph.

Libya is one of the first regions with which Egypt has had close ties over the ages by virtue of neighborliness and kinship. Islam came to promote and expand these ties. On a number of occasions, Egypt backed the Libyan people in their struggle against foreign colonization by offering them weapons, volunteers, and all other forms of assistance.

The restoration of amity and accord between Egypt and Libya benefits not only Egypt and Libya but also the entire Arab nation. This is because such amity and accord fills a gap in the Arab ranks and bolsters efforts to regain the solidarity and unity which that a cherished desire of the Arab peoples.

Arab 'Joy' Over Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting

JN2010122089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
18 Oct 89 p 6

[Editorial: "The Meeting of Brothers Strengthens Arab Solidarity"]

[Text] The talks between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have elicited positive Arab reaction and received full welcome in the various Arab capitals, which consider the meeting as a substantial step in strengthening Arab solidarity and closing Arab ranks to serve the higher Arab interests and to support Arab action in dealing with regional and international issues of common concern. The talks reflect a new success for Mubarak's Arab policy, which is based on the need to clear the Egyptian-Arab atmosphere from any impurities that might hinder the joint march forward.

The feeling of satisfaction has also extended to world capitals, which noted President Mubarak's assertion that a new stage in the relations between the two fraternal countries has begun, and that the two sides are convinced that Arab solidarity must be placed above all differences. President al-Qadhdhafi also said that he is not the guest of Egypt because he is among his family, and that from now on, we will be one country and will always converge.

It was therefore natural for the talks to be extremely cordial and to be resumed the following day in the Libyan city of Tubruq. The talks resulted in a decision to allow citizens of the two countries to move across the joint borders by the use of the identity card—a decision that was implemented a few hours later. The two presidents also agreed to expand joint cooperation in industry, agriculture, and electricity. A series of ministerial talks will also be held to discuss the basic points agreed on by the two presidents in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq.

With this Arab joy over the Egyptian-Libyan summit, the Arabs from the Gulf to the ocean hope that the meeting will signal the beginning of support for joint Arab action and of full coordination, so that the leaf of artificial discord between any two Arab countries can be turned over. More unites the Arabs than separates them; this is especially true after the successful experience of the regional Arab groupings, in two of whose formation Egypt and Libya played key roles.

Travel Requirements Between Libya, Egypt Detailed

JN2010172089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
18 Oct 89 p 1

[By 'Ali Shibli]

[Text] Instructions have been issued to the airport immigration authorities to implement instructions issued by the president concerning travel of Egyptians and Libyans between their two countries with the use of the identity and family cards. Brigadier Muhammad Hafiz Mansur, head of the airport police, stated that he issued his instructions to Brigadier 'Adil Zakariya, head of airport immigration, to provide the necessary facilities to implement this decision.

A special card has been prepared to accompany the identity or family card which has data on the passenger's date of arrival or travel, his identity card number, and all the necessary personal details. This card will be presented when it becomes necessary to prove the entry of Libyans or Egyptians through official channels, whether by land, sea, or air. The Libyan passenger will also present it to obtain a residence permit and to any authorities that might ask for it.

Regarding the travel of Egyptians, the same card will be filled out, to be produced whenever asked to do so, whether in Libya or Egypt, along with travel documents which include employer approval and military service status.

Cairo Airport Police Stop Libyan Passenger

NC2410063489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1922 GMT
23 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—The Cairo International Airport police have prevented the departure of Libyan Dr Hasan 'Ali al-Sanusi who was leaving for Tripoli. Twelve starter guns [musaddas sawt] were discovered in his luggage while he was going through check-in procedures.

Railway Link With Libya To Be Established

NC2110123589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT
21 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, has stated that an agreement has been reached with Libya by which the Libyan Government will undertake to build and equip a 160-km railway line linking Tubruq with al-Sallum. This will later be linked to the Egyptian railway line which already reaches as far as al-Sallum, he said. The minister added that the link will be implemented without any problems as soon as Libya finishes work on the Tubruq-al-Sallum line.

The minister has given instructions to the Egyptian roads and railways authority to speed up work on the 230-km two-way road linking al-Sallum and Marsa

Matruh, so that the road and all the necessary road signs may be ready within a year. In his statement, Eng Mutawalli said that work is already under way in western Marsa Matruh, al-Sallum, and a site midway between the two.

According to the minister, it has been agreed with Libya to establish cooperation in maritime transport, so that ships can transport goods and passengers between the ports of the two countries.

The minister noted that Libyan delegations will visit Egypt in the future to follow up studies on bilateral cooperation agreements in the fields of communication and transport and to prepare for their implementation.

Eng Mutawalli also said that it had been decided to increase microwave telephone circuits between Egypt and Libya to 180 circuits.

Sudan

SPLM Leader Denies Any Cease-Fire Agreement

PM2410104989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 21 Oct 89 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Mansur Khalid Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: There Is No Agreement on a Cease-Fire in Southern Sudan"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr Mansur Khalid, former Sudanese foreign minister and currently a Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leader, has revealed that fighting is taking place now between government forces and the SPLM in the the Nubian mountains and Kurmuk. He denied the existence of an actual cease-fire in the South.

Dr Mansur Khalid said that the talk of renewed fighting gives the impression that the fighting had actually stopped, which is untrue. Early in May the SPLM announced a cease-fire with the aim of showing good intent, responding to what the Sudanese Government had decided at the time—namely, to accept the Al-Mirghani-Garang agreement—and preparing the atmosphere for the negotiations which were being conducted at the time. Then the movement extended the cease-fire for another month during Colonel John Garang's visit to West Germany.

He added that the question of concluding a cease-fire agreement had been raised at the meeting between SPLM and Sudanese Government delegations in August. The movement's response to the government's request was that "such a thing is out of the question now; it can only be achieved within the framework of what was agreed in the Sudanese peace initiative."

On whether arrangements have been made to hold another round of negotiations between the two sides, Dr

Mansur Khalid said that the previous round of negotiations achieved nothing, since no fundamental agreement was reached on any point.

He added: At the end of negotiations we defined the points of disagreement and asked the Sudanese delegation to come back with replies to the examples which we raised with them during the talks. But since that time no contacts have been made between the two sides.

Dr Khalid refuted reports talking about the existence of a split in the SPLM and said that talk of any split or division was absolutely baseless. "That alleged split cannot be seen in the areas controlled by the movement in the Sobat and East Nile regions—an area constituting almost half of the southern province. That split cannot be seen in the ongoing battles in the Nubian mountains and Kurmuk. Nor could it be seen in the movement's delegation which sat down with the Sudanese Government's delegation in Addis Ababa. So what does this talk mean, when there is no split at the military, political, or diplomatic level? It is nothing but a media war whose objective is to confuse public opinion."

On the SPLM view of the proposal for a federal system for Sudan, adopted by the national dialogue conference in Khartoum, Dr Khalid said that talk of federalism was not new in Sudan; in fact it had emerged before independence, and the southerners demanded it. It had also crystallized in the form of promises made to the sons of the southern provinces during the independence period, but such promises had never been fulfilled.

He went on to say: The federal proposal should not be seen as anything new. What is really dangerous is the fact that some people want to start talking about that proposal now as a means of applying the September laws after Sudan is divided into states. But that is based on a misunderstanding of federalism, because in the end that system includes a central government presence. The question now is: What will be the position of that central presence?

He added: Over and above all that, the federal issue broaches only one of the many subjects raised. What will be the answer to the religion and state question? And what will be the citizens' rights under that federal state?

On whether that position means that the SPLM rejects the national dialogue's results, Dr Khalid said: The national dialogue conference concerns the Khartoum government. If the objective of the conference is for the government to formulate a special view to present to the movement and to be a basis on which the dialogue could be held, that is up to them. But if the purpose is to issue recommendations for achieving victory over the SPLM, that will remain a media victory and will achieve nothing vis-a-vis the movement's position or the course of war and peace.

Rebels on Government Offensive, 'Heavy Fighting'

EA2310152689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In a message to Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the official spokesman of the SPLA today accused 'Umar al-Bashir's military junta of talking with three tongues in one head, saying different things with each tongue, and doing totally different things on the ground.

The official spokesman said 'Umar al-Bashir was deceiving the Sudanese people about peace, forming so-called peace committees and declaring cease-fire, while at the same time he is not only actively preparing for war, but also actually already engaged in fierce fighting with the SPLA. The spokesman revealed that on 16 October 1989, Al-Bashir launched his southern Blue Nile military offensive which he code-named "Aman al-Kurmuk" or "Safety of Kurmuk," commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Sayyid Jamal al-Din.

This force attacked SPLA positions in (Abu al-Dugu), Shurkum and Mayak, all between Kurmuk and Damazin, in Blue Nile Province, and heavy fighting has been continuing since 16 October 1989. These attacks were unprovoked and they took place at the same time that Al-Bashir was closing his one-sided peace conference, declaring fake cease-fires, awarding himself medals for political achievement, and saying a lot of rubbish and lies about peace.

The spokesman condemned 'Umar al-Bashir's deceptions, lies and war-mongering attitude. 'Umar al-Bashir's invitation to the movement to go to Khartoum to discuss peace is at best naive. No guerrilla movement is expected to discuss peace in the capital city against which it is waging war. The UNITA [National Union for the Independence of Angola] and MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government conducted peace talks in Gbadolite, in Zaire, not in Luanda, Angola. Similarly, the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] and Ethiopian Government went to Atlanta, Georgia, USA, not to Addis Ababa, and they will meet again in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 November 1989. The Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] rebels talked with the Mozambican Government in Nairobi, not in Maputo.

Citing these examples, the spokesman said nobody who seriously wants peace can expect guerrillas to negotiate in the national capital against which they have rebelled. The spokesman concluded that 'Umar al-Bashir's crude ideas that the SPLA must come to talk with him in Khartoum is an objective indication that Al-Bashir wants war, not peace, and this is shown by his current offensive against SPLA in southern Blue Nile.

The spokesman further revealed that on 20 October 1989, 'Umar al-Bashir sent another force under Colonel Muhammad Ali al-Haji, to join the fighting.

In a related development, a First Corporal Yusuf Fadlullah Khayr al-Sid, military number 305763, defected from Al-Bashir's attacking force and joined SPLA forces. He reported that many soldiers in the "Aman al-Kurmuk" offensive are unhappy with 'Umar al-Bashir's war and more will come to the side of the SPLA.

Conference Outlines Plans for Federal System

EA2210172289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] The National Dialogue Conference on Peace Issues has recommended an alternative system of power-sharing, whereby the proposed federal republic shall have a president and a vice president to be elected by the citizens through direct and free elections, and that there shall be a single federal legislative organ elected in relation to the size of the population in each state, using a system which will achieve representation for significant groups. The conference recommended that the president of the federal republic would nominate ministers, the federal legislative council would appoint them, and their number would be specified by the federal constitution. It also recommended the establishment of a supreme federal court which would organize the judiciary and be responsible for appointing the chief justice.

The conference also specified the relationship between religion and the state, recommending that freedom of faith and worship be granted to all Sudanese, that there should be no compulsion in matters of religion, and that every (?believing) person [words indistinct] and bring up his children in his own religion [words indistinct]. Freedom of religious missionary activity should be allowed to all Sudanese on condition that others are not provoked. The recommendations pointed out that Islam was a faith and a way of life, and Muslims had the right to follow the tenets of their religion in the various areas of life without depriving others of their rights.

'Essential' Goods To Be Airlifted to Juba

EA2210162889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and political supervisor of the Equatoria Region, has declared that the services, transport, and communications committee of the NSRCC has organized regular flights to transport essential commodities from Khartoum to Juba. He added that the next few days would witness the formation of mobilization committees in Juba and the rest of the towns and areas of West Equatoria to contribute to providing services and essential commodities.

Kuwait**PDY Prime Minister Concludes 3-Day Visit****Holds News Conference**

*LD2310151989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0859 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 13 (KUNA)—Democratic Yemen's Prime Minister Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man praised Kuwaiti-Yemeni relations describing them as distinct, based on mutual respect and confidence "to face all factors of backwardness in the Arab world." He told a press conference at the end of his visit here today, that his talks with H.H. [His Highness] the Amir and H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah tackled many issues of interest to the two brotherly countries in addition to Arab questions in general.

Dr. Nu'man stressed that talks with the Kuwaiti leadership were frank and covered current developments in the Arab world and problems facing Arab people, including colonialist and Zionist-created factors of integration and backwardness.

He said the view-points of the two sides were identical and complemented each other on several questions, noting that Kuwait had implemented a number of developmental projects in his country that included economic, agricultural ones beside executing other schemes in health and social fields.

In this regard, he expressed his country's gratitude and appreciation for assistance extended by Kuwait to the Democratic Yemen over all phases of its development; a matter that enables the country to encounter factors of backwardness and colonialism.

The Yemeni prime minister urged Arab states to work for stability and peace saying that was the only means for realizing aspirations of the Arab peoples. He expressed satisfaction over the Iraq-Iran ceasefire and said it had been one of the major factors in bringing back tranquility to the Gulf region. He also referred to current deliberations between Lebanese deputies in the Saudi resort city of al-Ta'if and said he was optimistic that the MPs' [Members of Parliament] talks would yield an outcome that would preserve Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and Arabism.

Dr. Nu'man reiterated that the Palestinian cause represents the Arabs' first pre-occupation and lauded the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories saying it has created a historic change for the Palestinian people to fulfil the Arab dream of restoring the usurped homeland. He asserted that his government supports any initiative that recognizes the Palestinian peoples right for return to their homeland and the establishment of an independent state.

On the proposed unity between the two Yemens, Dr. Nu'man said "that was our prime task" and pointed out that "distinctive steps" had been achieved over the past two years to realize this great national goal. He emphasized that the two sectors of Yemen have agreed on free movement of citizens into either countries without any complications or formalities, adding that there were no obstacles blocking the unification. But he said the objective would certainly be reached after finalization of solid bases which constitute an important factor for success. He said the coming days would carry "good news" in this regard.

Dr. Nu'man denied that his country has made reservations on the foundation of the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Arab Cooperation Council, saying "on the contrary, the Democratic Yemen has welcomed these gatherings as long as being established on realistic views to achieve political and economic objectives in the national Arab framework."

The Yemen prime minister disclosed that negotiations between Aden and Washington were underway to restore diplomatic ties, severed in 1968. He denied that there were any pre-conditions set up in these negotiations by any side other than mutual-interests of avoiding reasons which caused the severance.

Nu'man's news conference at "al-Salam" palace here, was attended by Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Jarhum and KUNA's Deputy Director General Ahmad Dashti.

Departs 23 Oct

*LD2310111589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0932 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 23 (KUNA)—Democratic Yemen's Premier Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man Monday left here winding up an official three-day visit to Kuwait.

Nu'man was seen off at Kuwait international airport by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, ministers, senior officials at H.H.'s diwan and Foreign Ministry and Arab and foreign ambassadors.

Oman**Sultan Qabus Receives Djibouti Minister**

*JN2310144089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id received a written message from His Excellency Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. The message was delivered to His Highness Fahd Ibn-Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, when his highness received this morning at his office Moumin Bahdon Farah, Djibouti

minister for foreign affairs and cooperation. He conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Hassan Gouled and his good wishes to his majesty the monarch of the country, his wise government, and the Omani people.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs. Talks during the meeting dealt with fraternal bilateral relations and means of bolstering and developing cooperation between them. They also dealt with the current affairs in the Arab and international arenas and issues of mutual interest.

The Djibouti guest praised the talks he held during his meeting with Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, with the aim of strengthening relations and promoting aspects of cooperation between the two countries to serve the mutual interests of their two peoples.

PDRY

UN Ambassador Views Latest U.S. Contacts

PM2410084589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 21 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Zaki Shihab: "Aden Ambassador in New York Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Restoration of Relations With Washington Awaiting Solution to Outstanding Issues"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—"Abdallah Salih al-Ashtal, the PDRY's UN representative, has said that contacts between his country and the United States are still continuing for the purpose of discussing bilateral relations between the two countries in preparation for the resumption of diplomatic relations, which were severed nearly 20 years ago.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Ambassador al-Ashtal said that the present contacts are being held at UN headquarters and that it is difficult to talk about results achieved so far "because we are still in the middle of the talks." The PDRY representative pointed out that there are outstanding issues which must be discussed before the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two sides is announced.

Ambassador al-Ashtal indicated that the 20 years of estrangement mean that it will take some time for matters to assume a positive direction.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a U.S. committee concerned with foreign allocations and aid has begun to prepare files on the issue of providing aid to the PDRY.

Early in the year the committee had tried to open the topic of aid, but its efforts ran into the issue of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, severed since October 1969.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources, some contacts were made between the two countries in 1978, but these did not lead to the restoration of relations.

Furthermore, trade contacts were made between the two sides in 1982 when the PDRY airline purchased two Boeing 737 aircraft that year.

A U.S. State Department official yesterday said that the two countries were discussing via their UN representatives the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations.

It should be noted that contacts between the two countries were held via Kuwait last year; that is, before it was decided to hold direct U.S.-PDRY meetings in New York earlier this month.

Qatar

Amir Receives YAR President's Message

JN2310170589 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT
23 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, Oct 23 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani received today a letter from the North Yemeni president 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih related to the present situation in the Arab region and ways of expanding the scope of cooperation between the two countries.

The letter was conveyed by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress who arrived yesterday for this purpose.

The audience was attended by H.H. the Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani.

It was also attended by the minister of labour, social affairs and housing, 'Abd al-Rahmad Sa'ad al-Dirham, and by the Yemeni ambassador in Doha, 'Abd al-Wahhab Jahhaf.

Saudi Arabia

King Talks With Hassan II, Bendjedid, Bush

LD2410095989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0543 GMT
24 Oct 89

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Oct (SPA)—Telephone conversations were held last night [as received] between King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Saud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and each of his brothers, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, concerning the outcome of the Lebanese parliamentarians' meeting in al-Ta'if, which reached total agreement and comprehensive accord on the contents of the document announced by the speaker of the parliament, which came as a result to the continuous efforts of the supreme Arab tripartite committee.

During these conversations, views were exchanged on future steps to implement the provisions of the national accord document according to the transitional plan drawn up in this respect.

King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, last night received a telephone call from his excellency the U.S. President, George Bush, during which he expressed his sincerest congratulations for the successful and positive outcome of the Lebanese parliamentarians' meeting in al-Ta'if, which constitutes a practical step on the road of fundamental solutions to the Lebanese crisis. His excellency George Bush also hailed the constant and fruitful efforts exerted by the supreme tripartite Arab committee along with the tireless follow-up efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques to attain this success.

The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed to his excellency the U.S. President his deep appreciation for his wishes and for the continuous U.S. support for the committee's efforts.

U.S. Five Points Fail To Meet Aspirations

*PM2010104989 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
12 Oct 89 p 4*

[Editorial: "In Order That Peace Not Falter"]

[Text] The peace process in the Middle East has faltered despite the positive position which the PLO has adopted since the 19th Palestine National Council session held in Algiers nearly a year ago, when it declared the Palestinian state's independence on the basis of UN Resolution 181 of 1947. Its acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338 confirms Israel's intransigence against the peace process in the Middle East as well as its disregard for the new reality resulting from the Palestinian peace offensive and the continuation and escalation of the valiant Palestinian intifadah, which is about to enter its 3d year.

Undoubtedly, although the new U.S. attempt—represented first by its support for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan then by its efforts to secure a compromise formula via the 5-point document

proposed by Washington yesterday after Israel's rejection of the Egyptian president's plan—is designed to salvage peace endeavors in the region, it is not sufficient to realize the aspirations of the sons of the occupied territories. These people are daily offering legions of martyrs, detainees, and wounded in the hope that the international community, especially the United States, will understand the truth of what is happening in reality with regard to Israel's continuing violations of their rights and with regard to these steadfast people's resistance and sacrifices. So to keep coming back to political solutions taking no account of these human rights is a waste of time and a dissipation of the genuine peace efforts exerted to secure a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem—the efforts embodied in the 10-point plan proposed by President Mubarak recently. And that requires that the United States pressure Israel to induce it to work seriously to achieve a suitable formula guaranteeing the Palestinians their legitimate rights.

United Arab Emirates

Official Addresses Panel on Israeli 'Terrorism'

*JN2110182589 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT
21 Oct 89*

[Text] United Nations, Oct 21 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates has supported calls for holding an international conference to define terrorism.

It also called for denouncing all forms of terrorism and urged the international community to cooperate to eliminate the phenomenon.

The call came in a speech by 'Ali Thani al-Suwaydi, and adviser at the U.N. mission to the United Nations, during a debate last night by a special committee on terrorism.

He said attempts to mix between terrorism and legitimate struggle were aimed at discrediting the right of the oppressed people to struggle for national liberation and freedom.

"What Israel is doing in the occupied territories, especially its practices to suppress the intifadah (uprising) is a state terrorism," he said.

Diplomat's Car Explodes in Baghdad; No One Hurt

TA2310113289 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1100 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] A bomb exploded last night in the car of Berati Arisoy, an assistant economic and trade attache at the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad. No one was killed or injured in the incident. The car, which was empty at the time of the explosion, was seriously damaged and the windows of the houses in the area were shattered.

Turkish Ambassador to Baghdad Sonmez Koksall lodged representations with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, asking for tighter security for embassy officials. The Baghdad Police are reported to have begun investigating the incident.

British Media Criticized Over 'Espionage' Case

JN2310111489 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT
23 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Oct 23, INA—Iraqi newspapers today sternly lashed out at Britain for the suspicious information drives unleashed against Iraq within the frame of hopeless attempts to exercise pressure on it.

AL-THAWRAH daily said here today that these drives mean only that those who are ruling Britain do not want to forget the strong and painful blows directed to them in the 14th July Revolution of 1958, the 17th July Revolution in 1968 and Iraq's historic decision of nationalizing its oil wealth in 1972.

The daily pointed out that Britain which was great one day was still living in the past and does not want to discard it despite the events that took place in the modern era. The daily affirmed that the time of hegemony and custodianship and exercising pressure on other countries has gone once and for ever and that the wheel of history could never go back.

AL-THAWRAH referred to the espionage acts carried out by the British OBSERVER newspaper correspondent for the interest of foreign intelligence hostile to Iraq and the right of competent Iraqi quarters to arrest him and to exercise on him laws applied in such cases on those violating them.

It added that Iraq under the leadership of Saddam Husayn and which has triumphed in one of the most fierce and protracted wars in history clearly behaves in the light of its legitimate rights and the prerequisites of its national and Pan-Arab security and rejects any formula for interference in its domestic affairs and also decisively and strongly counters all attempts aiming at harming its sovereignty and national dignity.

AL-THAWRAH further added that Britain should accept the new situation that Iraq is a free independent state deriding all pressures and does not receive orders

from any foreign party and strongly rejects any pre-conditions from any international party dealing with it. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH daily stressed that any interests serving big or small quarters hostile to Iraq would face utter failure.

A daily article here today said that the complex of hegemony, colonialism and interference was still deep in the minds of those who imagine that their material absence would yield an effective presence along the path of serving their interests or facilitate others interests in the Arab homeland and Iraq, the independent state which imposed through capability its independence and dealing with world countries on bases of respect and independence of all world peoples and countries.

Columnist on Al-Asad Meetings With U.S. Experts

JN1410093089 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
7 Oct 89 p 2

["Spotlight" column by Hanna: "Coordination"]

[Text] Those who are following the policies of the Hafiz al-Asad regime notice that when this ruler raises his resounding slogans, which invariably speak of "struggle" and "steadfastness," he means what he says. Under the slogan of "struggle" against imperialism, for example, Hafiz al-Asad recently summoned military experts from the U.S. Pentagon to supervise the transfer of the Syrian Army to militias to protect his regime from downfall, particularly since Syria does not need its Army anymore after the Golan was "liberated" from its Arab sons at the hands of this ruler.

And, the "fierce" war that Hafiz al-Asad is waging against Zionism "through the radio" required that his personal adviser Jubran Kuriyyah "hurry" to a secret visit to the Pentagon headquarters in Washington last August to see with his own eyes the latest methods "to confront Zionism," particularly since Hafiz al-Asad always coordinates with the U.S. Administration in the serious issues, especially those related to the struggle against imperialism, for example.

As an expression of his "wisdom" that cannot be envied by anyone and as an affirmation of his insistence on "the steadfastness," Hafiz al-Asad planned to make the issue of the hostages held by his gangs and those of his Iranian allies an example of his steadfastness and confrontation. On this basis, what was divulged from his meetings with the American military experts at the end of last month confirms that the issue of the hostages was at the top of the agenda discussed by "the two parties," in addition to the issue of the political cover that Hafiz al-Asad asked for his suspect plans against Lebanon and the Palestine question.

Hafiz al-Asad can meet whomever he wants, and he can tailor his steadfastness and evenhandedness to the measures that suit those who brought him to power. However, he should realize that what he is doing in the dark, like a vampire, is laid bare before the Syrian people. And

he whose fear from the people makes him seek assistance from foreign experts has reached a point where he cannot benefit from either his "struggle" through the radio, or from his "steadfastness" in support of the organs of repression.

Shamir Says U.S. Differences 'Not Too Harsh'

TA2310125089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Report by political correspondent Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was today the guest of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, which dealt almost exclusively with relations with the United States.

After the meeting, the prime minister was asked whether his prognosis regarding the tension between Israel and the United States is materializing. The prime minister's reply was that although differences of opinion exist, they are not very striking.

[Begin Shamir recording] I did not speak of tension [metahim], but rather of strain [metihut]. I would say, although the difference may be slight, I regret to say that it is true. Things happen sometimes; there are indeed differences of opinion. When differences of opinion exist and the media interferes [laughs] and represents them in one way or another, then a certain impression of strain is created. I myself, for instance, did not feel it in my talks—albeit on the telephone—with the U.S. President and secretary of state. I can only state that there are certain differences of opinion, which are not too harsh or profound. I am convinced they can be overcome. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 23 October in a similar report on Shamir's remarks adds that when asked to explain the difference in tone between his remarks at the Likud caucus and when speaking with the U.S. Administration, Shamir replied: "This is utterly ridiculous. Everyone speaks differently on different occasions in reply to different questions. The main thing is that I am faithful to my views."]

The prime minister added that he will not postpone his trip to the United States: We do not run away from our views and from the need to express these views before friends. The unity government can and should serve to the end of its term. All the differences between us must be ironed out, said the prime minister in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting.

Shamir Says Baker Plan Remains Unacceptable

TA2310192589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the American five-point plan remains unacceptable to Jerusalem. Speaking to reporters following an appearance before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said the objections remain the composition of the Palestinian delegation to discuss preliminary matters and the exact agenda of such a meeting. Shamir again downplayed tensions between the Bush administration and the Israeli Government. David Ze'evi reports:

The prime minister said Israel remains bound to its own peace initiative, and until elections can take place to determine negotiating partners, any talks with the Palestinians can only be on procedural matters on how to move ahead with the peace process. The Palestinians who participate in these preliminary talks, he said, must not identify with the PLO or the intifadah.

[Begin Shamir recording] I think we have to be sure that we will not negotiate with PLO. This is one of the principles of our peace initiative, and we are committed to it. [end recording]

Shamir told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that U.S. President George Bush told him in a phone conversation the White House understands, and in fact is happy, that the Israel Government is sticking to its plan. To hammer out the differences that exist, Shamir said, he spoke by phone both with Bush and Secretary of State Baker. Foreign Minister Arens held a similar discussion with the American secretary, and senior aides from both sides have also been holding contacts. As such, Shamir denied there is tension between Washington and Jerusalem, and he called the current situation differences between friends.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is no doubt that the relations are as they were: it's friendly relations, and very friendly, and very close relations. It's a well-known phenomenon that even when you have friendly relations you are facing sometimes some differences of views. [end recording]

The prime minister said he could not believe Baker is considering dropping out of the mediation efforts. And, Shamir said, he saw no reason to call off his scheduled trip to the United States in the middle of next week.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 23 October in a similar report quotes Shamir as saying that "there is nothing in our position that could harm U.S. interests; therefore, he does not fear differences of opinion with the United States."]

Rabin Says Baker Plan Not 'Formally' Rejected

TA2310114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says, as of now, the government has neither accepted nor rejected the latest peace proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Rabin was talking to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Rabin, do you feel that Israel is about to enter into a real confrontation with the United States, particularly because of the proposals from Mr Baker, which apparently are unacceptable to the prime minister?

[Rabin] Well, you have to bear in mind that formally the Government of Israel has not rejected and has not accepted the five points of Secretary Baker. Only a vote in the Inner Cabinet or the plenary session of the Cabinet

can decide positively or negatively. There is no one member or two or three members of the government that can take a decision. As it was when the Labor Party members of the Cabinet proposed a certain proposal, it was voted six to six in the Inner Cabinet, and it meant that it was not accepted. Whoever would propose not to accept Secretary Baker's proposal has to submit it to the Cabinet or to the plenary session and to get a majority. Whoever would like to accept it will have to do the same. As long as it has not been done, there is no refusal nor acceptance. Well, at the present there are certain members of the Cabinet who are trying to get more information. I tend to believe that we come closer to a decision prior to the traveling of the prime minister to Washington.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you think the issue should be brought before the Cabinet prior to Mr Shamir's departure for the United States?

[Rabin] We will see.

[Ben-'Ami] Would you favor it?

[Rabin] We will see. [end recording]

Peres Sees No Need To Amend Baker Proposal

TA2410090989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0805 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Shalom Qital in 'Afula Hospital; from the "It Is All Talk" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Qital] On the political issue: Although you have been somewhat dissociated from political affairs recently, can you tell us where things are headed?

[Peres] Anyone reading the papers can understand what is going on. We are in a state of discord with the United States, and the clock is, unfortunately, moving ahead with considerable speed.

[Qital] Does this clock have a deadline [preceding word in English]?

[Peres] I think it does.

[Qital] What is it? November and the prime minister's visit to the United States?

[Peres] I do not think it necessarily has anything to do with the visit, because what difference is there between talking on the telephone and flying out to talk? They are the same. News travels anyway. The time factor shows that we have reached a situation in which there is a controversy both inside Israel and between Israel and other countries.

[Qital] Is the prime minister's demand that Baker amend two of his five points acceptable to you and Mr Rabin?

[Peres] I see no possibility of this happening, nor do I see the need for it. I see nothing in Baker's proposals that

requires change. I think Baker's proposals were made in order to help implement the Israeli Government's peace initiative. By the way, the Israeli Government has made no decision about rejecting these five points or about requesting that two of them be amended.

[Qital] I understand from your less than optimistic remarks that the unity government is reaching its end.

[Peres] You asked me for an interview on mundane matters. This question is something we will discuss after I recuperate.

[Qital] Get well.

[Peres] Thank you.

Arens Says Five Points Accepted 'in Principle'

TA2410081789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Israel accepts in principle Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan. This was announced by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in a message to his U.S. counterpart.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told, however, that Israel has asked the United States to discuss certain disturbing clauses and to make slight changes in them.

Shamir's Willingness To Confront U.S. Discussed

TA2310110389 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
20 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Waiting and More Waiting"]

[Text] No sooner had Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir concluded his remarks expressing readiness to enter a confrontation with Washington over his continued rejection of the principle of land for peace, U.S. President George Bush announced that the U.S. did not intend to pressure Israel or force it to accept anything, affirming his opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Shamir uttered his remarks as a trial balloon, prior to visiting Washington in the middle of next month. He said: "No one can force me to accept an exchange of land for peace." By this, he is saying to the entire world: Do not bank on my visit to the U.S. capital. These remarks also tell the Labor Party, his partners in the unity government: Do not threaten me with the possibility of a confrontation with the United States; I am ready for it.

A single glance at the map of international politics clearly indicates that the world, with the exception of Washington, is pointing an accusing finger at Shamir and holds him responsible for hindering efforts to launch the peace process. Despite this, Shamir has not hesitated in stating his readiness to confront Israel's only ally, because he is well aware that Washington will not exert any pressure.

Shamir in effect achieved what he wanted when President Bush declared that his administration will not enter into a confrontation with Israel. The Israeli prime minister can now say to the Israelis that anyone who wants to achieve peace should accept Israel's retention of the Palestinian lands that Israel occupied in 1967.

This means that there is no room for Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as comprehended by the world, in Shamir's initiative. If the United States says that Resolution 242 constitutes the basis of a settlement, and Shamir says the opposite, and then Washington says that it will not pressure Israel to accept things it does not want, how can one even think of beginning the peace process?

This is a simple and clear question, which the U.S. Administration must answer. The Arab world, West European countries, and the Soviet Union, however, should not expect an answer, because all that Washington has done for the past 10 years is urge the world to wait and wait some more.

U.S. Said To Be 'Sick of Shamir, Peres'

TA2310144289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
23 Oct 89 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The 7 Lean Years"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir is not perturbed by the intifadah, and he dismisses his aides' warnings regarding the narrow-based government schemes plotted in rabbis' houses by Shim'on Peres with indifference. The elections in the territories are, in his eyes, much more dangerous than the political status quo. He has confided in his close circle more than once that had it not been for the fear of coming empty-handed to the White House, he would not have touched the initiative bearing his name with a 10-foot pole. About 3 weeks before his journey to Washington, Shamir is taking precautionary steps by repulsing pressures. This time, he has no new initiative up his sleeve to gain a few more months. The prime minister is convinced that the Americans want to push Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian state—well concealed between Baker's 5 points and Mubarak's 10—through the back door. He himself finds it convenient to hide behind the braces ministers, although his aides stress that Shamir does not need handcuffs to keep his arm from being twisted into signing the American document. Those same aides have been circulating rumors that recently the prime minister has made frequent remarks in the spirit of—"I am sick and tired of it all, perhaps it is time I went home."

All this tallies nicely with the battle cry voiced by Shamir in the Likud caucus. Although spelled in simple Hebrew, it was designed for American ears, to wit: "Ease off the pressure, or else I may run away and leave behind internal riots. And the phone calls from George Bush and James Baker were, indeed, conciliatory. The latter's remarks in last weekend's THE NEW YORK TIMES ("If we lose hope for a real shift, then we will have no

alternative but to disengage") show that Shamir's message had reached its audience. As far as he is concerned, the second part of Baker's statement is no threat. Shamir had no real hope for a shift in the first place; therefore, he would consider a U.S. withdrawal from the political process as a success.

Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, Ari'el Sharon, and David Levi have already proved themselves to be paper tigers. The aides—Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert—keep their anxiety over the results of the political stalemate to themselves and their close friends; they are also too civilized to pound on the prime minister's desk. When the latest "nuisance," Baker and his assistants, absconds, they will add another layer to a 7-year-old thesis. The thesis contends that ever since Reagan's September 1982 plan, Israel—or the Likud, to be precise—is not required to pay for U.S. refractoriness and failures. Hence, the Likud will come out unscathed and Shamir will be able to refuse without fear.

The experience of the past few years shows that every hair pulled out in frustration by Americophobic politicians and commentators over the threatening remarks voiced by Shamir vis-a-vis the Washington administration was wasted. Although the Reagan administration made room for the Bush administration, the behavioral patterns were retained: ineffectual assessments of the situation, lack of determination, and/or indifference. And—"on to the next futile move": The Reagan initiative—an extraordinary presidential initiative—died in the cradle as a result of a misunderstanding of King Husayn's reaction and a speedy capitulation to the Begin government.

Richard Murphy was burned when he ran in vain between Jerusalem, Amman, and Cairo trying to find "agreed-upon Palestinians," for a "Murphy meeting," which would make them kosher to participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Peres rubbed out all the names except for Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu-Rahmah. Shamir and company rubbed out the remainder, and the Americans let the matter die without a eulogy. The initial 10 points were hatched in London in 1986, and several months later, in April 1987, Peres and Husayn—again in London—found a compromise formula on the Palestinian representation and how to curtail the powers of the international conference. It was Shamir himself who praised Moshe Arens' successful "Israeli bonds" mission, which left Shultz at home, although the secretary of state had committed himself to be in Jerusalem on 1 May. In 1988, Shultz did even better when, in a letter to Peres, he presented a target date (15 April) for the new initiative which bore his name. The vice prime minister's joy waned when it appeared that the date did not appear on the letter sent to the prime minister. Shultz was proud that "for the first time nobody said no to the peace initiative."

The Americans, used to an administration led by one man and one ruling party, have not learned the secret of a dual-headed government in Israel since July 1984. At

first they were inclined to believe that matters could be finalized with Shim'on Peres and that Yitzhaq Shamir would have to bless the deal. They are now betting on Shamir, running around him, and letting Peres wait on the sidelines, because how can they disturb the peace process? That is why the situation in the territories has reached the stage it has: King Husayn has left the arena to be replaced by the PLO and HAMAS [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. The guilty are first and foremost those directly involved in the conflict, but when everybody is expecting the next move from Washington and it does not come—or has once again failed—because “the United States does not intervene in Israel’s internal affairs,” we should believe them that they are becoming sick of Shamir and Peres, ‘Arafat and Husayn, and the Jewish lobby. The prime minister is right: He will have a good trip.

Intervention in U.S. Armenian Day Bill Denied

TA2310211689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel is not intervening to prevent the passing of a bill in the U.S. Senate in Washington to establish a memorial day to mark the genocide of the Armenians.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that 15 Knesset members belonging to six factions in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee joined the initiative of Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] to pass a motion supporting efforts to recall the Armenian massacre. The proposal also said that any attempt to forget or deny the genocide of any nation should be decried.

Affair Called 'Embarrassing'

TA2410095589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 24 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Officials at the Israeli Embassy in Washington went beyond their brief in lobbying against a Senate resolution commemorating the Turkish genocide of Armenians, Foreign Ministry officials charged yesterday.

The officials said that certain top officials at the embassy had been “overzealous” on the matter, and had embroiled Jerusalem in an embarrassing affair.

The officials added that, in response to a request by Turkey, the embassy had been instructed only to “make inquiries” about the proposed Senate resolution, which would declare April 24, 1990 as a day commemorating the Armenian genocide. The officials said that they were “astounded” to learn that the embassy had engaged in active lobbying against the resolution, in consultation with several American Jewish organizations.

The Foreign Ministry this week instructed the embassy to cease its lobbying activities. The ministry spokesman

said yesterday that “Israeli delegations will not intervene in questions related to this matter.”

The spokesman said: “Israel, as the state of the Jewish people, who suffered more persecution and oppression than any other people, is very sensitive to the sufferings of the Armenian people.” [passage omitted]

NRP Declares Support for Unity Government

TA2310191089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Progressive List for Peace Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari and 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party today presented no-confidence motions in the government over what they called the continuing sabotage of the peace process and the continued harm done to the Palestinian population in the territories.

MK's Mi'ari and Darawshah said that the ministers are also shooting down peace, and the government is trying to get out of the proposal it itself praised several months ago.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the number of no-confidence motions over the political situation has now reached five. In the economic-social sphere, MAPAM [United Workers Party] presented yet another motion. All the motions will be debated tomorrow.

The NRP [National Religious Party] decided today to continue supporting the national unity government. Minister Zvulun Hammer told the meeting that he supports the continued partnership in the unity government, but not under any condition. Only MK Yig'al Bibi voiced his opposition to the unity government and said the time has come for a narrow-based government.

Labor Knesset Members Given Free Choice in Vote

TA2310195289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] The Labor Knesset faction executive has decided to give party members a free choice in voting on tomorrow's four motions of no-confidence. A majority in the party indicated that they would not support the motions either by not participating in the vote or by absenting themselves.

Warning Systems Improved After MiG Infiltration

TA2310110689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 23 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Steps have been taken to tighten the mesh of radio and radar early warning systems that alert the air force to the approach of potentially hostile aircraft, following the unhindered landing of the Syrian MiG-23 earlier this month.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf [Lieutenant General] Dan Shomron, speaking at the weekly cabinet session yesterday, also said the vigilance of the soldiers that operate the systems has been intensified.

While the new and stricter orders would make it harder for a hostile plane to slip through the mesh, such penetrations by a lone aircraft could never be prevented entirely, Shomron added.

Shomron was briefing ministers on the findings and recommendations of the two-man body he set up to probe the IAF's [Israel Air Force] failure to detect and follow the aircraft flown by a Syrian pilot seeking asylum here, and which touched down on a small airstrip in the Yizra'el Valley.

Damascus To Receive Sukhoy-24's 'Very Soon'

TA2310194889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
19 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Advanced Soviet fighters of the Sukhoy-24 type will arrive very soon in Syria. They are a new generation of fighter aircraft capable of flying at a very low altitude over a long distance and at night. The aircraft can carry a payload of over 10 tons of explosives and missiles. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Talks Held With USSR on Sea Link

TA2410073589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Israel and the Soviet Union are holding secret talks regarding the establishment of a sea transportation link between them. The Soviet Union wishes this line to be on a purely economic and commercial basis.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh has learned that the Foreign Ministry in Moscow is now impeding the rapprochement attempts between the two countries. On the other hand, the KGB, which was in the past notorious for its hostility toward Israel, is now taking a more sympathetic line, supporting the efforts of Gorbachev's aides to bring about normalization in the ties between the Soviet Union and Israel.

UK Informed of 'Grave View' of Consul's Actions

TA2410061889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to London says that Israel takes a grave view of the UK consul's entry into Bayt Sahur in violation of army orders. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Ambassador Yo'av Biran made these remarks in a meeting at the Foreign Office in London, under orders from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. In the meeting, he stressed that Israel hopes there will be no further need to discuss the consul's acts.

Pope Told Palestinians Responsible for 'Plight'

TA2410061689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] In reaction to the pope's remarks on the Palestinian issue, the Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that the plight of the Palestinians is the result of their leaders' negative attitudes and of their terrorist organizations' activities. Spokesman Yosef 'Amihud noted that the Palestinian terrorist organizations persistently oppose all peaceful solutions, adopt an all-or-nothing approach, and systematically eliminate every Palestinian inclined toward peaceful solutions through negotiations.

Sharon Discusses 'Anarchy' in Defense Sphere

TA2310125789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Minister Ari'el Shamir believes that Israel has reached a situation of pronounced anarchy in the sphere of defense and that the continuing terrorism is the gravest failure since the establishment of the State of Israel.

In a conversation with our Haifa-based correspondent Qobi Mandel in the course of the minister's tour of the Chemical Composts and Materials plant, Sharon said that the current security situation harms the political process, because no progress can be made as long as quiet and order are not restored.

Minister Sharon added that there is no need to reach a state of confrontation with the United States and that the faster Israel clarifies what it can do in the political sphere, the lesser the danger of a confrontation with the United States will be.

Bayt Sahur Warned Against Taking PLO Money

TA2310111089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 23 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank, Brig. Gen. Shay Erez, warned residents of Bayt Sahur yesterday against receiving PLO compensation for property seized by the authorities during month-long tax raids on the town.

The warning came amid Arab reports that the authorities had informed the Cairo-Amman Bank in Nabulus that a lien may be put on accounts held by Bayt Sahur and Ramallah residents. The Civil Administration refused to comment on the reports.

The PLO announced recently that it would compensate Bayt Sahur residents for property seized by Israeli tax officials, and that it would deduct 3 percent of its employees' wages for this purpose.

"We have good intelligence, and whoever is involved in (illegal) money transfers will be prosecuted to the fullest

extent of the law," Erez told the ITIM news agency. "I hope Bayt Sahur residents are wise enough to avoid such activity."

The Civil Administration is expected to issue tenders this week for the sale of merchandise seized from six major Bayt Sahur merchants, including wood and construction materials.

A leaflet distributed in the town over the weekend called on residents to continue the tax revolt.

Despite claims by townspeople that the tax revolt is total, Civil Administration sources maintain that several residents have begun paying taxes. According to these sources, members of the town council and several merchants have been in touch with authorities to arrive at an arrangement that would enable the Civil Administration to end the tax raids in exchange for commitments to pay outstanding debts.

Magnetic Card System Considered Successful

*TA2210104289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
22 Oct 89 p 3*

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Two months after the introduction of regulations requiring any Gaza Strip resident who wishes to enter Israel to carry a magnetic identity card, the defense establishment reports that the operation is considered a success. A senior security source said that the issue of the plastic cards had been transformed into a battle of prestige between the Israeli authorities and the leadership of the uprising in the Gaza Strip, with the results of the battle being unequivocal. Over 73,000 Gaza Strip residents have so far obtained the new identity card, and many others turn up daily at the Civil Administration offices to apply for one. [passage omitted]

In the wake of lessons learned as a result of the magnetic card operation in the Gaza Strip, the defense establishment has lately been holding consultations and examining various means of increasing the extent of supervision and control over the entry of criminal elements from the West Bank into Israel, and their influence on the crime rate inside the Green Line. [passage omitted]

Highway for Settlements Planned, Criticized

*TA2210130089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
22 Oct 89 p 2*

[Report by Mikhal Qedem]

[Excerpt] In the coming days the security forces in the Gaza Strip will begin paving the "Trans-Gaza highway." The highway will connect the settlements of Gush Qatif with the Negev, and accord drivers a relatively safe trip without having to pass by refugee camps and Arab villages.

The paving of the road necessitated the uprooting of 10,000 fruit trees, and 230 hectares of land were requisitioned from 70 Arab families. Knesset Member Tawfiq Tubi sent Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a sharply worded telegram on the matter, in which he demanded that work on the road be halted and that the Arab families be compensated.

Menahem Bet-Halahmi, the spokesman for the Gush Qatif Regional Council, said yesterday that the highway under discussion is 4 km long and approximately 20 meters wide, and is included in the traffic ordinance plan from 1972. Bet-Halahmi added that "with the outbreak of the intifadah the need to pave the highway arose, especially because of tourism exigencies." [passage omitted]

Police Interrogate Jerusalem Deputy Mayor

*TA2210184089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 22 Oct 89*

[Text] Ornan Yequti'eli, Jerusalem deputy mayor, was interrogated by the Jerusalem police this evening on suspicion of violating the terror prevention order. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Yequti'eli is suspected of wearing a pin combining the symbols of the PLO and Israel on his shirt during a ceremony in which Prime Minister Shamir was awarded honorary citizenship of Jerusalem.

In his interrogation, Yequti'eli denied that his intention was to raise sympathy or to identify with a terror organization. All he wanted was to spread a call for peace between the Jewish and the Palestinian peoples. Ornan Yequti'eli, a member of the Citizens Rights Movement, was released after his interrogation, on personal bond of 1,500 shekels.

PFLP Official Reportedly Hiding, Not Arrested

JN2310103489 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned from reliable sources that 'Azmi al-Khawajah, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] official in Jordan, was not arrested during the recent campaign, but has been in hiding since then. Sources said that reports of his arrest were incorrect, and that he was in hiding and not arrested. The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY cited an official source as saying 12 persons from the PFLP were arrested for involvement in firing Katyushas at occupied Palestine from Jordan. Rumors have been reiterated in Jordan on the possibility that those detainees will be released before the elections are held on 8 November.

Association Heads Urge PFLP Members' Release

JN2310163589 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
21 Oct 89 p 25

[Text] Amman, AL-QABAS—Heads of the professional associations in Amman have sent a cable to Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir, urging him to release the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] members who were arrested on 5 October 1989.

Those arrested are: 'Azmi al-Khawajah, Hamdi Matar, Ahmad Salih Muslih, Ahmad Dahbur, Dr Sa'id Diyab, Eng 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mahmud, Ahmad al-Masri, Ahmad al-Muragah, and Nabil Najm.

Columnist Criticizes Anti-IMF Election Slogan

JN2310140689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Oct 89 p 20

["Highlights" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "The IMF and Election Slogans"]

[Text] We blamed the former government for being late in seeking the IMF's help to formulate an economic readjustment program and in persuading its creditors to reschedule their debts. That government remained opposed to such help to the very last minute, because it meant serious and difficult measures, a change in its expansionist trends which sought to buy time and delay the moment of truth, and a loss of popularity. So when candidates started a flood of election slogans, we feared that some of them might resort to one-upmanship and demand abandoning the program worked out with the

IMF and the new government fiscal policy, which are aimed at increasing government revenues, curbing expenditures, curtailing the deficit in the balance of trade and the balance of payments, and reducing dependence on foreign resources, although we consider implementation of this program as a matter of life or death.

Luckily, nothing of the sort happened until [Jordanian Communist Party leader] Dr Ya'qub Zayyadin raised the slogan of cancelling the economic program agreed with the IMF, considering it detrimental to the interests of the masses. He also demanded severance of all links with the IMF and other monopolist international institutions.

With all due respect to the leftist candidate and his honorable nationalist record, we cannot but regret such an irresponsible slogan. We regret it not just because the socialist bloc countries themselves, which once adopted a similar attitude, are now seeking membership in the IMF and the World Bank to benefit from them, but also because Dr Zayyadin did not present a well-studied and practical alternative to the program. This program already is giving positive results in the form of a reduction in the deficits of the general budget and the balance of trade, a long postponement of debts prior to reducing them or cancelling them, and a return to relative stability prior to resuming the economic growth process on sound bases.

We know that the slogan raised by the candidate may attract some votes. However, we doubt very much that Dr Zayyadin is willing to undermine the national readjustment program and throw a wrench in the economic gears simply to win a few votes, which was what the previous Jordanian Government did exactly when it rejected IMF help for at least 2 years for the sake of its popularity.

Without trying to prejudice the election campaign of Dr Ya'qub Zayyadin, whom we respect and revere, we say that we are against any slogans that undermine the readjustment program and discredit the IMF before the uninformed layman, such as telling him that the financial crisis was brought about by IMF policies, while we all know that they were the result of uncontrolled expansionist policies and trying to win popularity by bribing the public at the expense of its own future. What we do not doubt, however, is that Dr Zayyadin is above all this. Thus, we ask him to cancel his unconstructive and irresponsible slogan for the sake of the long-term, real interests of the masses, whose future lies in a sound Jordanian economy.

'Awn Declares Commitment to 'Liberation'

NC2310130889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Demonstrators set out for B'abda Palace today while General Michel 'Awn was holding consultations with student, economic, and trade union delegations on the al-Ta'if agreement.

Speaking to the demonstrators, Gen 'Awn criticized the outcome of the al-Ta'if meeting. He added: Let those involved in the Lebanese crisis, be they countries or individuals, understand that Lebanon's destiny will be decided by the Lebanese people on free Lebanese territory. Anyone who wants to help Lebanon can come here. We welcome any honest hand reached out to us, whether to shake hands with us or to help us out of the crisis.

He added: We are committed to the cause of freedom and will defend it until full liberation is achieved and sovereignty over the entire Lebanese land is established.

Salim Al-Huss Welcomes Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC2310135489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has welcomed the al-Ta'if agreement without the least reservation. He said he regards it as a document ending the destructive state of war. He added that this agreement is designed on the one hand to revive the constitutional institutions and, consequently, to extract Lebanon from the constitutional predicament which had been tearing it apart. On the other hand, it aims to put an end to a fierce and prolonged ordeal that is sapping the strength of this country's people and threatening their destiny. He remarked: If we assess the contents of the document in accordance with this criterion, which is what we must do, then we will hesitate to proclaim our approval of, support for, and commitment to both its aspects.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: Those who totally reject the document are those who have no interest in the return of peace to Lebanon. Those who have reservations about some parts of the document and object to this or that article or phrase are those who either intentionally or unintentionally see it as the last reform agreement among the Lebanese. They are wrong in this view. Those who adopt this view or act in accordance with it are denying the most basic democratic principles and disputing the right of the Lebanese people to practice a correct and effective democracy. Every democratic system leaves the doors wide open for the possibilities of continued development. Every democratic constitution contains provisions that claim to possess ways of amending it.

Prime Minister al-Huss continued: The al-Ta'if document is not the final settlement by the Lebanese of their final issue. Change is the law of life. Openness to change is the counterpart of democracy.

In conclusion, Prime Minister al-Huss announced: The duty of allegiance requires us to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the higher Arab committee and all those who participated in it, both leaders and foreign ministers. Credit should go to them all and to the effective and decisive support which the committee enjoyed, at all stages of its mission, from the Syrian leadership, and from President al-Asad personally, for this exceptional achievement on the path of rescuing Lebanon from its ordeal. A greeting is also extended to the not unknown soldier, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim. Our hope is that our Arab brothers will continue to accompany us on this march until the end of the road.

PSP Assails Al-Ta'if Plan's 'Contradictions'

NC2310140089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of PSP leader Walid Junblatt today. The conferees discussed the atmosphere and results of the al-Ta'if meeting and the document approved by the deputies. The PSP affirmed that the document does not meet minimum national aspirations, carries within it the seeds of a new civil war, and includes major contradictions that are bound to mask the core of the real conflict in Lebanon and constitutionally enshrine the sectarian formula.

The PSP notes the historic stand of the patriotic deputies in al-Ta'if who did their best to reflect the patriotic position and defend the rights of the patriots and the Arabs in Lebanon. The party will hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss and examine the document and will later declare a detailed stand on it.

Junblatt Comments on Accord, Sectarian System

NC2310151889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], announced in a press interview today: It has been decided to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss this al-Ta'if document which contradicts the aspirations of all patriots and opposes the establishment of a new democratic, secular, and modern Lebanon. We are proud of the position adopted by our patriotic deputies in al-Ta'if although these deputies are a minority. The vast majority of the Lebanese people, however, support these deputies. These are the Lebanese people who took up arms for the sake of justice and equality and for the sake of liberating the south from the Israeli army and Israel's Lebanese agents—the people who triumphed in the Mountain, Beirut, Iqlim al-Kharrub, and the south. These people support the sincere and patriotic Arab deputies who defended the legitimate Arab rights against Christian and Muslim reactionaries in Lebanon. We are

not surprised by the stands adopted by these reactionaries. It is time for everyone to learn that those who are described as patriots are merely agents of political Maronism.

Junblatt added: I made a general statement to LE FIGARO about my impressions of Arab and Lebanese policy. LE FIGARO interpreted, or rather published, what it wanted to publish. We know what LE FIGARO is and its rightist policy which is linked to the interests of political Maronism. What LE FIGARO says does not concern me. We have always been, and will remain, in the same trench with Syria under the darkest and most difficult circumstances.

On his views in connection with the Druze feeling that their sect has not obtained anything through the al-Ta'if document, Junblatt said: The issue is not one of the Druze or any other sect. The issue is one directed against all sincere Arab patriots in Lebanon who have paved with their blood every trench, corner, mountain, hill, and wadi in Lebanon—from the south to 'Akkar. The issue is not restricted to the Druze.

Commenting on the statements which Michel 'Awn made yesterday, Junblatt remarked: Michel 'Awn has become a mere detail. Tomorrow, the lords of political Maronism will remove him in one way or another. However, the Lebanese system which has consolidated its sectarianism more than ever before, remains. We do not attach much importance to Michel 'Awn.

Asked whether he believes the accord plan will succeed, Junblatt replied: Ask Husayn al-Husayni and Salim al-Huss. Ask Salim al-Huss, who will now be very satisfied, if this splendid agreement can resolve the Beirut garbage problem. It appears that Salim al-Huss has linked an international, regional, and Arab accord with the Beirut garbage issue. Perhaps some good will come out of this. I congratulate Salim al-Huss who has obstructed national efforts. As we have said in the past, they will all be toppled. History is with us, not them.

Arab Envoy Ibrahim Departs Beirut for Jeddah

*NC2310153089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1507 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim left Beirut for Jeddah this afternoon to participate in the expanded parliamentary meeting which will be held tomorrow in Jeddah under the patronage of Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Ibrahim said at the airport: I will return soon, and I am always optimistic.

Amal Militiamen Attack Israeli-SLA Patrol

*NC2010171589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Oct 89*

[Text] An Amal group detonated an explosive device while a joint Lahd-Zionist patrol was passing on the

'Alman-Dayr Siryan road this morning, destroying one vehicle completely. The occupation and agent militia forces launched a wide-scale sweep covering the al-Litani river basin and the outskirts of Dayr Siryan.

SLA, UNIFIL Groups Exchange Fire in Shab'a

*NC2010175189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 20 Oct 89*

[Text] According to a source of the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL], Lahd intelligence member Nidal [not further identified] and six members of agent Lahd's army entered Shab'a township and detained citizen Muhammad Adib 'Abd-al-Hadi.

Members of the Norwegian contingent in the town intercepted them. Nidal shot at the Norwegians, who returned fire. The Norwegians and Lahd soldiers were alerted. Nidal's group fired an RPG at the Norwegian contingent's center in Shab'a. The Lahd force retreated 1 hour later after kidnapping the citizen.

Amal Fighters Capture 3 Lahd Militiamen

*NC2310132489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Excerpt] Amal resistance fighters succeeded in capturing three members of agent Lahd's militia in Wadi al-Salahani in the western sector of the resisting south today. The agents are identified as Yusuf Muhammad Rida, 18 years; Yusuf 'Ali Sa'd, 21 years; and Jamil Mustafa Daqluq. [passage omitted]

Mountain Line Under Fire; Israeli Mock Raids

*NC2310131289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] The Dahr al-Wahsh combat line in the Mountain area came under mortar and heavy machinegun fire from al-Yarzah army positions between 0930 and 1100 today.

In addition, Israeli warplanes flew over southern Lebanon at 1320 and conducted mock raids over Sidon and the nearby camps. The planes drew intensive anti-aircraft fire.

Group Claims Explosion Near Syrian Checkpoint

*NC2110180989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Oct 89*

[Text] A spokesman for the 16 January Organization has claimed responsibility for an explosion that occurred next to a Syrian checkpoint near the al-'Inayah al-Ahliyah school in the Abu-Samrah area in Tripoli at 1630 today. The spokesman said the blast caused material damage.

Soviet Friendship Delegation Arrives in Damascus*JN2310152989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA) — The Soviet-Syrian Arab Friendship Society delegation arrived here today headed by Comrade Omar Vardzelashvili, first deputy chairman of the Soviet Georgian Republic Council of Ministers, on a visit to Syria lasting several days.

Vice President Khaddam Meets Red Cross Officials*JN2110213089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2119 GMT 21 Oct 89*

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1100 today (Angelo Gnanadenger), general envoy for the Middle East and North Africa in the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The meeting was attended by (Alan Leinantez), head of the ICRC's delegation in Damascus.

(Gnanadenger) expressed his concern over the threats made by an unknown group that kidnapped the ICRC's envoys in Lebanon. The vice president affirmed Syria's position condemning such acts.

Joint Meeting With Turkey on Plane Incident*JN2310153289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA)—A border meeting was held yesterday between the Syrian Arab side, including Idlib Province Governor Zayd Hassun and a number of other province officials, and the Turkish side, which included the Antakia governor and a number of Turkish officials. The two sides discussed the Turkish plane accident.

The governor of Idlib expressed his condolences to the families of the accident victims. He pointed out that the authorities in Syria have formed a committee to investigate the circumstances of the accident.

He also affirmed Syria's concern over strengthening ties and neighborliness with Turkey, since they benefit the peoples in the two friendly countries.

U.S. Optimism Over Israeli Plan 'Misplaced'*PM2010133989 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
10 Oct 89 p 8*

[Article by 'Izz-al-Din al-Darwish: "Rejected and Condemned Plan"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that there is still a chance that the Israeli plan, which calls for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, can be made a success.

Baker also indicated that his country is seeking to eliminate differences between the parties concerned.

Undoubtedly Baker is well aware that the Israeli plan, known as the Shamir plan, has been rejected in form and substance at both the Palestinian and Arab levels since its inception. Besides, the plan was drawn up, as admitted by many Israeli officials, to circumvent the intifadah of the occupied territories' citizens and reduce the effectiveness of their struggle against the occupation forces. It is also just a political maneuver designed to hold incomplete elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with a view to allocating positions to the occupation authorities' lackeys.

The Shamir plan is rejected and cannot see the light, and Shamir himself no longer speaks about his plan, considering it, as he said, obsolete.

Furthermore, Shamir and other Israeli leaders rejected the 10-point plan, although it ignores the question of the Palestinian people's self-determination. They declared their rejection on many occasions and issued it in the form of a written decision via the so-called kitchen cabinet.

On this basis, U.S. optimism can be seen as misplaced, especially since it has become clear to the international community as a whole that Israel is not serious about seeking peace and that Yitzhaq Shamir's government insists on occupying Arab territory and working to repress the Palestinian people by every available means.

If Washington is expecting "good" intentions from Israel, then it will have to wait for a very long, long time—as long as U.S. pressure is no more than wishful thinking, and as long as boundless aid and weapons pour into Israel.

It must be emphasized here that Israel's calculations about the possibility of suppressing the intifadah will achieve nothing but further complications. This is because the intifadah, as developments and events confirm, is continuing, is escalating, and is difficult for the Zionist tools of repression to handle. The intifadah will remain stronger than the plans of circumvention, one-upmanship, and blackmail. It will continue to impose itself irrespective of Israel's escalation of its terrorist means, thus keeping the situation in the Middle East explosive.

Radio on 'Isolationist' Obstacles at Al-Ta'if*JN1910163189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 19 Oct 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The isolationist clique continues to place obstacles before the al-Ta'if conference under the pretext of sovereignty, as though Lebanese sovereignty were limited to a small group in Lebanon and did not concern the vast majority of the people. In fact, it is as though this small minority is a representative of the Lebanese empowered to decide what should and should not be given to them. For example, the al-Yarzah general

declares war against the citizens of Beirut, the Mountain, and the al-Biq'a' under the pretext of sovereignty. Had his shells been able to reach Tripoli and Sidon, they would have struck the citizens in northern and southern Lebanon in the name of sovereignty. However, he does not at all refer to the Israeli occupation of a part of southern Lebanon, or to Lahd's gang in southern Lebanon, which is supported, financed, armed, and used by Israel to demolish the houses of the innocent people in the southern cities and villages, damage their farms, and destroy their property.

The flagrant Zionist aggression against Lebanese sovereignty does not raise the general's concern, and consequently he is neither required to fire even one bullet on the Israeli forces nor even offer one bullet to the Lebanese nationalist resistance, which is fighting the Zionist occupiers.

In al-Ta'if, a group of deputies from the East Beirut area persistently rejects the Arab accord document as long as they cannot not obtain guarantees concerning sovereignty. Therefore, this group of deputies calls for scheduling the Syrian withdrawal contrary to the will of the majority of Lebanese deputies, which considers the Syrian presence a guarantee of regaining sovereignty, unity, Arabism, and the independence of the fraternal country.

Like the al-Yarzah general, from whom they receive instructions, these deputies do not speak about the necessity of pooling all Lebanese capabilities to secure the Israeli withdrawal, which threatens Lebanon's unity and existence. After all, what does sovereignty mean? Does it not mean the freedom of all Lebanese people, their participation in running their affairs, utilizing their resources, and spreading authority over their territory? Doesn't sovereignty mean enabling the Lebanese people to freely elect their leaders and representatives, and opt for the form of government they want? Does it not mean that Lebanon's Army should be the army of all Lebanese and not of a small minority, and that Lebanon's Army should be a protector of the country's borders and a

defender of the homeland's soil, rather than a sectarian army which directs its artillery on its people and destroys their homes and property?

Within the framework of this concept of sovereignty, a concept recognized by all world constitutions, we may ask: What did the isolationists and their sectarian army offer on the altar of Lebanese sovereignty? Did they confront the Israeli invasion? Did they fire one bullet on the Zionists? Did they support the Lebanese resistance? They did nothing of the sort. On the contrary, they made it easy for the Zionists to occupy the country, and their role in this regard is well known. On the other hand, the Lebanese people, whose will and desire they have ignored, have confronted the Zionist invaders. The Lebanese people have also waged a valiant nationalist resistance that inflicted heavy losses on the invaders. Yet, the Syrian forces in the fraternal country have waged fierce battles in defense of Lebanon's land, and the al-Biq'a' skies have witnessed the greatest air battles. Syria offered all forms of support to the Lebanese nationalist resistance, and provided it with the means of success and continuation. All that was for the sake of Lebanese sovereignty.

The isolationists, who are putting up obstacles in al-Ta'if, are not concerned with the Lebanese sovereignty, but they are working toward its destruction. This is because sovereignty requires the realization of national accord, the removal of all aspects of injustice and coercion from the Lebanese community, the spread of justice and equality, the acknowledgment of equal opportunities, and the building of a national army to protect the borders and to remain alert to all dangers against the homeland and liberate it from the Zionist invaders. Such a great task requires the cooperation of all Lebanese, as well as the cooperation of Lebanon and Syria. For their people are one people having the same history, destiny, and security. Solidarity among all Lebanese, and solidarity between Syria and Lebanon will lead to the expulsion of Israel, the restoration of sovereignty, and the liberation of the occupied land. Only in this way can sovereignty be maintained, and not through involving Lebanon in a whirlpool of sectarian conflicts.

Afghanistan**2 U.S. Missiles Purchased From Rebel Commander**

*BK2310100189 Kabul in English to South Asia
0900 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Two United States surface-to-surface [word indistinct]-30 missiles were purchased on Saturday [21 October] by the organs of the Ministry of State Security from an opposition commander around Kabul.

Court Sentences Saudi Arabian 'Spy' to 20 Years

*LD2210190189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 22 Oct 89*

[Text] A Saudi Arabian spy, Husam al-Din Mahmud, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment this morning by the Special Court of National Security of Afghanistan at a public trial held at Kabul Province's Hall of Conferences.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reporter told us that recently Husam al-Din Mahmud, a citizen of Saudi Arabia and a follower of the Wahhabi sect, had been captured with a Kalashnikov, hand grenades and other ammunition in actual fighting against the armed forces based in Nangarhar Province, after being besieged. He was questioned comprehensively and his case was referred to the related court by the special attorney of national security after the completion of investigation. The accused, Husam al-Din Mahmud, confessed to all the crimes he was charged with by the attorney during public trial. He was accused of being a member of the Saudi Arabia intelligence services and involved in spying for it, of undergoing military training in a military camps in Pakistan, illegally entering the Republic of Afghanistan, and carrying out armed activities against the country's national sovereignty.

The Special Court of National Security of Afghanistan considered the charges of the special attorney for national security, investigation papers and listened to Husam al-Din Mahmud's written and verbal defense and, after taking into account other evidence of his crimes, convicted him of membership in the Saudi Arabia intelligence services and gathering information for it, illegally entering the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, and conducting subversive activities for the extremists.

He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, starting on the date of detention, in line with Articles 2, 15, and 23 of the law of crimes against the internal and external security of the Republic of Afghanistan. On top of this, arms and ammunition captured with him were confiscated, in line with Article 119 of the criminal law. The sentence of the court as regards the convicted person is final, in line with the existing laws of the country. The case is to be referred to the court of appeal due to objections about the sentence by both sides.

Further Report on Sentence

*BK2410103089 Kabul in English to South Asia
0900 GMT 24 Oct 89*

[Text] Husam al-Din Mahmud, a Saudi Arabian spy, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on October 22 in an open judicial session of the national security special courts of the Republic of Afghanistan held in the conference hall of the Kabul provincial governor's office.

A reporter of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY points out that Husam al-Din Mahmud, a citizen of Saudi Arabia and follower of Wahhabism, was recently captured red-handed with the Kalashnikov, hand grenades, and other ammunition in an armed confrontation [word indistinct] seized and was thoroughly investigated. His case was referred to the court with special attorney's office of the national security following completion of the process of investigations. The accused, (Hissamuddin, openly confessed in an open judicial session the charges and crimes committed by him as member of Saudi Arabia intelligence service and espionage activities in the interest of obtaining military training in the camps of the armed extremists situated in the territory of Pakistan, illegal entry into the Republic of Afghanistan, and carrying out armed activities against national sovereignty of our country.

The judicial session of the national security special court, having heard charges leveled against the accused, Husam al-Din Mahmud, his written and verbal suits in view of investigation sheets and other evidences concerned, convicted him for commitment of crimes as member of Saudi Arabian intelligence service, gathering of information in its interest, getting military training in Pakistan, illegal entry into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, and carrying out subversive and armed activities in the interest of the armed extremists; sentenced him, therefore, for 20 years; and moreover, according to the provision of Article 119 of the Penal Code, the weapon and ammunition seized from him were confiscated. The verdict says [words indistinct] the case as per the country's laws and at this stage, however, the case may be appealed when and if a party may so decide.

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto Remarks Denounced

*LD2110214789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Oct 89*

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, in her recent speech in Kuala Lumpur, made an irresponsible and irrational statement, which entails an anti-Afghan and anti-peace spirit, on the situation in Afghanistan. Not only has Benazir Bhutto acted against the spirit of the Geneva agreements, but she has also violated all international norms unashamedly and has blatantly interfered in the internal affairs of the people of Afghanistan. To justify Pakistan's blatant interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, carried out under the instructions of the U.S. authorities and the pressure of

the military authorities of Pakistan, Bhutto blamed the continuation of the war on the present government in Afghanistan, whereas the people of our country and world public opinion know well that since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, war and fratricide continues due to the blatant and unashamed interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by Pakistani, U.S. and Wahhabi authorities, each of which try to impose a puppet government of their liking on the people of our country.

Last week Benazir Bhutto admitted that General Ziaul Haq, the military dictator of Pakistan, wanted to use Pakistan's military intelligence to determine the future of the people of Afghanistan. Benazir criticized that policy of Pakistan's dictator. Now it can be asked how 1 week after criticizing the interfering policy of General Ziaul Haq, the dictator, she now follows that interfering policy and intensifies her government's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Bhutto, in a news conference in Kuala Lumpur quoting her U.S. supporters, said that there are no signs that the United States will give up its support of the extremists opposing the Government of Afghanistan. Such a statement is expressed while Pakistan, as a signatory, and the United States, a guarantor, of the Geneva agreements, have pledged they will not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Yet Benazir Bhutto praised the Pakistan backed extremist groups' interim government, which has credibility neither with the people of Afghanistan nor internationally and has alleged that this puppet regime has been able to remove differences among rival groups. Even the Western mass media has disapproved of the demagogy and hypocrisy of Mrs Bhutto, and has recently published reports that bloody clashes continue between rival groups of Rabbani and Golbuddin in Qandahar Province, where they have caused the death of hundreds of combatants and innocent residents of the area. In contravention to the demagogical claims of Benazir Bhutto, the Western press has recently revealed that the efforts of the intelligence services of Pakistan and the Wahhabis have failed to end the differences of the heads of the opposition groups, and have not been able to bring Golbuddin back in to the Pakistan-backed government.

Yet these are tens of articles on the fact that Pakistan-backed opposition group heads are involved in the production and smuggling of drugs. For instance, radio Voice of America has revealed that Golbuddin owns, with the help of the U.S. mafia, the greatest heroin production factory in the area.

Other reports for Western sources, say that Pakistan-backed rebel chiefs gave set up an Afghan widows camp in the area of Naser Bagh in Peshawar. It is being used for the enjoyment of Saudi Arabian Wahhabis. It is regretful that Mrs Bhutto supports those individuals and praises their puppet government, whereas the people of Afghanistan loathe the heads of the extremist groups and consider them the cause of the continuation of war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

Common sense and the interest of peace in the region require that Pakistan stop its unashamed interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and make efforts for the restoration of peace through dialogue, negotiation, and political resolution.

Following Ziaul Haq's Policies

*LD2310220189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Contrary to Pakistani authorities' claims of supporting a political resolution of the Afghanistan problem, recently military authority has embarked on acts that are against all international norms and laws and that are a clear violation of the Geneva agreements. The political commentator of the BAKHTAR agency writes:

In recent months Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, used words that had been applied previously by Gen Ziaul Haq as regards the resolution of the Afghanistan problem. But what has surprised politicians of the world and Pakistan is why and how Benazir Bhutto has become a follower of the hostile policies of Gen Ziaul Haq on the situation of Afghanistan, and has forgotten all that she said before her accession to power. The change of Benazir Bhutto's policy on Afghanistan and its return to the militarist policy of Ziaul Haq has raised a question to the people of the world including the Pakistani people. Importantly, the prime minister of Pakistan and similarly senior government officials of Pakistan such as Ghulam Eshaq Khan, president of Pakistan, and Sahebzada Yaqub Khan, foreign minister of that country, in their statements say that Pakistan supports a political resolution of the situation of Afghanistan and does not spare any effort in this respect. But for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan [they] set preconditions.

Their precondition is the removal from power of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan which is in control of the sociopolitical situation under the will of the people of Afghanistan, and in keeping with the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan defends national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent and free state of Afghanistan which is a member of the United Nations and has diplomatic relations with a large number of countries. The nonaligned movement has repeatedly supported the policy of this government.

Now one should ask the politicians of Pakistan whether the raising of those hostile preconditions is not interference in the internal affairs of an independent and non-aligned country in its own right. By what right does Pakistan instruct that this government should step down and that government should seize power in Afghanistan? Whether Afghanistan is a province of Pakistan to act in line with the desires of Pakistani rulers [words indistinct].

The people of Afghanistan now resolutely defend every inch of their territory and stand selflessly in the trench to protect their honor and dignity. They are not like the

heads of the seven-party alliance and their internal and external supporters who seek to form a government under the instruction of aliens and implement the sinister wishes of aliens at the price of the blood and soil of their compatriots. The people of Afghanistan are free and remain free and will never accept the instruction of aliens. If Pakistan really wanted the political resolution of the situation of Afghanistan and the restoration of peace in this independent, neighboring country it would rather abandon interference and aggression and leave the Afghans themselves to determine their future. [words indistinct]

Mujahidin Delegation To Seek Afghan Seat at UN

BK2310160289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 (AFP)—A five-member delegation representing the Afghan mujahidin interim government left here Monday for New York to lobby General Assembly delegations for the Afghanistan seat at the United Nations, resistance sources said.

The delegation is led by the eight-month-old interim government's minister of education, Farooq Azam, the rebel-government run MIDIA news agency said.

The delegation will meet the heads of U.N. missions and lobby for the Afghanistan seat for the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), which "is the sole rightful representative of Afghan people," the agency said.

The AIG was formed last February by seven Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin groups who are fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

This is the first time that a mujahidin delegation is representing the resistance as a "single and cohesive body," MIDIA noted.

During its two week stay in the United States, the delegation will brief State Department officials on the latest developments in Afghanistan, it said.

The mujahidin delegation visits New York every year to muster support for their cause. But the rebels have failed so far to get U.N. membership.

The delegation was first to be led by Foreign Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who pulled out of AIG in August following tension with rival rebel leader Burhanuddin Rabbani, who lost 30 guerrillas in an ambush laid by Mr. Hekmatyar's men in July in northern Afghanistan.

Then AIG decided to send a three-member delegation under interior minister, Muhammad Yunis Khales, but he also reportedly refused the job.

Notes 877, 878 on Violations Sent to UN Mission

BK2410094389 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Notes 877 and 878 of the Foreign Ministry on open violations of the provisions of Geneva Accords by Pakistan [words indistinct] to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan office in Kabul in the afternoon of 22 October.

Note 878 of the Foreign Ministry once again draws the attention of the United Nations Good Offices Mission to the Pakistani-backed extremist rocket shellings on Kabul residential areas on 22 October, which caused the martyrdom and wounding of some of our innocent compatriots. And it has been pointed out in the notes that without all-out military aid of Pakistan and the United States of America, the opponent armed extremist groups can never perpetrate such inhuman acts against our innocent people.

The notes of the Foreign Ministry asked the United Nations Good Office Mission in Kabul to seriously investigate the open violations of the provisions of Geneva Accords by Pakistan, which caused massacring of innocent people in our country by putting various types of deadly weapons, including surface-to-surface rockets, at the disposal of the opponent extremists; and after assessing them as per Paragraph 7 of document No 4 of the Geneva Accords, inform the concerned parties as soon as possible of the findings.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Reported

BK2310160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have foiled yet another attempt by Kabul regime forces to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway in Nangarhar Province. The Afghan news agency MIDIA has reported that the regime had sent a division commanded by General Gul Rang and a militia force commanded by General Ali Ahmed to reopen the highway with the aim of restoring supplies to its forces, but their progress was halted at Sarowbi and they were forced to retreat.

The mujahidin attacked the Gardez Airport in Paktia Province and destroyed 2 helicopters, killing all 17 soldiers on board.

In another operation 30 km east of the capital, Kabul, the mujahidin damaged (Mahipar) hydroelectric power station. The mujahidin also killed 13 soldiers and injured another 4 in this operation. The dead included a military officer.

Rebel Attacks on Kabul, Other Cites Reported

BK2410103189 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] As per instruction of American and Pakistani state terrorism, the criminal extremist groups embarked

on hysteric terroristic attacks on civilian population in Kabul and other major cities, following their frequent defeats in Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces as well as Khowst division. The warmongering and destructive extremists, for example, hit seven times residential areas, bus stops, and crowded parts of the city with rockets—barbarically murdering our 66 defenseless compatriots, including women and old people, and wounding tens of others as a result of shelling of long-range American rockets. Similarly they have caused huge financial losses and damages for millions of Afghans.

Now the heads of the extremist groups do not deny their barbaric and predatory rocket attacks against the civilian population of cities, but consider them with hysteric pride as their success. For instance, Sebghatullah, who calls himself head of the so-called interim government, recently revealed the shameful and inhuman deeds in an interview with BBC (?on) shouldered rocket shellings, rocket firings on residential and populated parts of Kabul City on October 30 [date as heard] and 1 October 1989.

India

Gandhi Files Nomination Papers for Elections

BK2410090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today filed his nomination papers [for the upcoming general elections] from Amethi Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Immediately after his arrival at Ramhat Airport, he drove straight to the collector's office to file his nomination papers. He presented four sets of nomination papers before the district magistrate. Mr Gandhi has been representing this constituency since 1981. He was first elected in the by-election in 1981 following the death of Mr Sanjay Gandhi [Rajiv Gandhi's younger brother]. Among those who were present on the occasion included the union ministers—Mr P. Shiv Shankar, Mr H.R. Bhardwaj, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai—and the state chief minister, Mr Narayan Datt Tiwari, and his cabinet colleagues.

India Said To Call for Postponing SAARC Summit

BK2310112889 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] would take place within this year, and the leaders would find out ways and means to amend the charter or have an understanding on this, says the new SAARC Secretary General Kant Kishore Bhargava.

A dispatch from Kathmandu received by LANKAPU-VATH further states that the secretary general has said that he has no knowledge about India's reported plea to postpone the fifth SAARC summit, generally held in December, in view of the parliamentary elections there.

8 Killed in Group Clashes, Police Firing in Bihar

BK2310145889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In Bihar, eight persons were killed and several others injured in group clashes and police firing in Sitamarhi District last night. The state home commissioner told AIR [All India Radio] Patna correspondent this evening that one person was killed when police opened fire to disperse violent mob and seven persons lost their lives in arson. The situation is now under control. Police patrolling has been intensified. Senior officials have rushed to the affected areas to supervise the law and order situation.

128 'Terrorists' Arrested in Jammu, Kashmir in 1989

BK2110150889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 21 Oct 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police have arrested 128 terrorists and seized 72 Kalashnikov rifles, 3 dozen revolvers, and 200 kg ammunition from them so far this year. This was disclosed by the director general of police, Mr Ghulam Gilani Pandit, in Srinagar while addressing a function in connection with the police commemoration day today.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds 23 Oct News Conference

LD2310204589 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1630 GMT 23 Oct 89

["Details" of news conference held by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani with Iranian and foreign correspondents in Tehran on 23 October; questions followed by Persian translation; English questions transcribed from the English—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent in English] Mr President! There is a great deal of interest and a great deal of concern about Westerners being held hostage in Lebanon. Given your stated position that you do have some influence over those who are holding them hostage, why hasn't your administration moved to try to win their freedom?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I welcome all our journalist guests. I would like to say that I doubt that the Westerners are anxious for the issue come to a conclusion, because if they were interested, then there are some clear ways before them. We have advised them before and they could have acted. It seems that they need to have such a topic for their propaganda objectives.

[Correspondent] A follow-up question, if I may. You said there are clear ways that you've announced (?before). What are the ways that the Western administrations, in your belief, must take to assist in the freeing of the hostages?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We said that they should use their influence on the Maronites for the release of our hostages, then we, in turn, will use our influence for the release of their hostages.

[Correspondent] Do the frozen assets play a role in this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That was another supposition. We said that if the United States shows good intentions in this regard, then that can serve as an encouragement for us to consider. The Americans, in a sheer and blatant act of blackmail without any legitimate international pretext, have frozen our assets.

[Unidentified conference coordinator] [Sentence indistinct] Okay! Number 3 is Mr Shatoshi Kubo from NHK. Will you please come to the rostrum?

[NHK Correspondent Shatoshi Kubo in English] Mr President! I have one complaint and just one question, if possible. After your election as president, Iran entered a new political era and the foreign journalists are willing to reflect this era. But so far, unfortunately, the bureaucratic limitations and complicated procedures in this country have not made it possible for us to have efficient journalistic activity here. And even our intention to make a program, for example on tourism in this country, failed due to these limitations and even financial demands from one organization, although you yourself are aware of [words indistinct] Mr President! How do you expect neutral foreign coverage from Iran when journalists are not even allowed to make such a social program on tourism, which also would directly lead to the benefit of this country? And can I have the reply before going to the question?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The gentleman should write to me about the problems he has encountered so that I can assist in resolving them.

[NHK correspondent] While Iran is in a time of reconstruction and requires some support from countries with advanced technology, would you accept some economic support from countries that have no political ties with this country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There are so many sources for these technologies that there is no need for us to ask for assistance from places with which we have no political ties. There is enough technology in places with which we have political ties.

[Coordinator] Can I now ask Mr Keith Graves of the BBC to ask his question?

[BBC correspondent Graves in English] Mr President! If I could return for a minute to hostages. The archbishop of Canterbury said last week that he had news from an authoritative and reliable Iranian source that Terry Waite was alive and well. Now, you are an authoritative Iranian source, and you have been in touch with the archbishop in the past. Do you have any news of Mr Waite? And would it not be a humanitarian gesture on

your part, taking into consideration outside politics, if you—as the president of this country—did help to release all of the hostages?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You journalists are more interested in the hostage issue than your respective governments. It is better that you should strive, within your own environment, to make them interested in that issue. At the moment we have no news about the conditions of the hostages who are said to be in Lebanon. We also see no reason to concern ourselves with that issue. If we should one day decide to take action, this should be in harmony with acts regarding our own hostages in Lebanon, the Lebanese hostages in Israel, and the other hostages held in Lebanon.

[Graves] Mr President, to follow up, you mentioned earlier the state of the Iranians missing in Lebanon and said that was tied in with the fate of Western hostages. The archbishop of Canterbury sent a mission to Lebanon and he reported back to you that regretfully he'd come to the conclusion that the Iranian hostages were dead. Now what more does he have to do?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We said that the bodies of our hostages—that is if they are dead as claimed—or their belongings and documents, the site of their burial, their murderers, or any other similar things should be brought to our attention, if they are telling the truth about them being martyred by hostagetakers. This is because we are certain—and we have the documents to prove it—that these hostages, within particular periods of time, were being held by the Maronites, who must be held accountable. I would like to give you some advice, especially the Western gentlemen, in particular those concerned with cultural affairs or journalism, that you should open your horizons, that is to say that as much as you care and show emotions for the Western people, you should also show the same type of emotions for others.

[Coordinator in English] I think it is now the turn of the representative of Islamic Republic of Iran's news agency.

[IRNA correspondent] It is now more than 1 year since the Islamic Republic of Iran began negotiations with the Iraqi regime. These negotiations have reached a dead end. It seems that the continuation of a no war, no peace situation benefits the American superpower much more than it benefits the Islamic Republic of Iran. It seems that the United States is trying to sustain this situation for as long as possible, to enable it—as it imagines—to draw the Islamic Republic to negotiation and a kind of deal with the U.S. Government. Please tell us how long this situation can be endured by the Islamic Republic? And what are the effects and consequences for us and the region as a whole?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This opinion of yours concerning the no war, no peace situation benefiting superpowers who pursue some hegemonist objectives in this region is correct. This situation benefits neither Iran nor Iraq. We both are losers because of that situation, as we have to allocate some funds to this period while many tasks that

need to be done are left undone because of this situation. And now to the other issue, that the superpowers are trying to attain some concessions through this situation. If such an idea does exist, it is a mistake. This is because we have proved in the past that we do not grant concessions under similar circumstances, and ultimately, one day we will be forced to try to resolve the issue through other means.

[IRNA correspondent] Your Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Before your election as president, the Western mass media in particular tried to foster this mentality in the world—in particular within the country—that with the election of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, all of the country's problems would be quickly resolved. Within the last few months, the direction of their propaganda has changed in such a way that directly or indirectly, they now try to foster the thought that despite the fact that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is in charge, it can be seen that problems persist as before, and that the problems have increased. It seems that this propaganda is aimed at achieving particular objectives. Please state what our position is vis-a-vis this propaganda, and what methods we have chosen to confront such moves.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is possible that such a devilish type of propaganda may exist, of course, but there are also realistic remarks. It is not the case that everything that is said is devilish propaganda. (What we think is) they divide the facts, and we shall not be caught in these nets—we have a clear path and distinct program for solving the problems of our country. We have presented our program to the Majlis and have announced that the details of this program will reach the ears of the people and the world via the platform of the Majlis. Everything will become clarified for the people and others including the facts [vaqe'iyat-ha] which are not hidden here.

[Coordinator, in English] Can I now call on Mr (?Pavel Nusum) from TASS news agency please.

[TASS correspondent in English] Mr President, in June this year you paid an official visit to the Soviet Union. As it is known, during this year concise high-level accords were achieved regarding the future development of Soviet-Iranian relations. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as the president, what possibilities and opportunities do you seek for practical implementation of these accords? And what can you say about the prospect of promoting the good-neighborly relations between the USSR and the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In our talks with Mr Gorbachev, we reached almost all our goals, and we had full understanding with regard to such concerns as bilateral relations, regional matters, and some world issues. And the accords are moving forward well in their implementation stage—right now, there is a Soviet delegation in Iran, and in the course of the next few days also, two more delegations are due to come to make preparations and arrange to implement the things that we signed

together. I think that the trend of the progress of our relations with the Soviet Union is very good. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Mr President, I would like to ask another question about the stalemate between Iran and Iraq in the so-called peace process. And what exactly, in your opinion, is the reason for this situation?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We think that Iraq is concerned about the next stage, that is, concerned about being identified as the aggressor and responsible for the damage. On the other hand, Iraq—since its people know that Saddam Husayn started the war—needs to have something to tell people, to convince them: The fruit of the war was this. But he does not believe that the existing situation, this course, is in his interest—potentially, that is. The second reason is that the same people who encouraged Iraq to go to war and who have influence over Iraq do not see that it is in their interests for war to end completely in the region and for peace to be established there. At least they do not apply pressure on Iraq. If we were to be pessimistic, we would say that they are preventing Iraq from making progress. The Iraqis also know that this state of affairs is not to their advantage and one day they will be forced to stop this obstinacy.

[Coordinator] [Word indistinct] (Amin Jobert) of Radio Canada is ready.

(Yucella Kuchina) and (Ali Kutayle) from Radio Canada. The next person will be Shyam Bhattiya from the OBSERVER.

[Radio Canada correspondent in English] Can I ask my question in French? No? In English? Mr President, on 3 November it will be [word indistinct] 10 years now that Iran has taken hostages, American hostages, in 1979. I want to know if this event is going to be commemorated in some way this year by your country. And I also have another question. Most journalists here have a visa that allows them to stay in Iran for 5 days, in my case it is a week. Do you think that we could have a few more days to see your wonderful country and meet more people? Thank you, Mr President.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In reply to the first question, it is usual for us to have ceremonies and we have held them on this occasion every year because we consider that that was an important event; that is, breaking the formidability of the United States. Such a thing was necessary. It depends on what people feel. This may take place and normally it does. With regard to the particular request made by the lady, we agree. I will inform the Islamic Guidance Ministry to extend your permit to stay for the additional time that you would like to remain in Iran.

[Coordinator in English] Shyam Bhattiya from the OBSERVER, and the (?next person) to be ready is (?number five), (Mohammadi) from WIM [expansion unknown].

[Bhattiya in English] Mr President, I have two questions. The first question concerns the visit some years ago of Mr McFarlane. It is widely believed in the West that the high-ranking Iranian official Mr McFarlane met was yourself. Years have elapsed since that secret and controversial visit. Can you give us some idea as to what you discussed?

My second question concerns the Western hostages, Mr President, especially the British hostages who, you say, you have no information about. Mr President, your country maintains an embassy in West Beirut. Your government, or organizations within this country, have financed Hizballah activities in Iran. There are armed Revolutionary Guards of Iranian origin who live in the al-Biq'a Valley who I've seen myself. A few weeks ago your government played host to some of the most notorious Hizballah leaders the world has ever seen. Can you tell us, surely, [words indistinct] could you please tell us—I draw distinction between information and knowledge—do you have any knowledge of what has happened to the British hostages such as Mr Terry Waite?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to Mr McFarlane's trip to Iran, since his trip was unauthorized, we did not know about it. That is why we were not ready to talk to him. Talks were held with them [as heard] on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A group had comprehensive talks with them for several days and we were not ready to meet him despite the fact that he brought presents and a message from the President. We did not accept because they did not do an ethically good thing by entering Iran without permission from us.

With regard to Lebanon's problems, those gentlemen whom you have named as Hizballah, who are among the resistant and self-sacrificing figures of the region, are by no means responsible for hostage-taking, really. Those who take hostages are groups that are not known. In the earlier phase when we entered negotiations to rescue the hostages they were talking to us through several intermediaries. No one can find them in any way.

The presence there of our embassy or of our guards is no reason for being informed because many have embassies there; many have forces there; this not something that anyone can find out. If it was possible to find out in this way then the Americans, or the British, or the French, or others would have done so by now.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Do you believe, yes or no, that the British hostages are alive and well? Please.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I really do not know. That is, it has been quite a while. In the beginning, at the archbishop of Canterbury's request, we were able to send a message to Lebanon and obtain a response. At that time they said that they were alive. But since then I have had no information whatever.

[Same correspondent in English] Sorry, when was this message from the archbishop? Was that 2 years ago?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It was in the beginning of the hostage-taking period when the first letter of the archbishop reached me.

[Coordinator in English] Next we have an Arabic paper: LAQA AL-SADR and Mr Bakht al-Rabi'i and next (?in line, Rex Rexon) of NBC is ready. First, LAQA AL-SADR—Rabi'i.

[LAQA AL-SADR correspondent Rabi'i in Arabic] Iraqis residing in Iran—including deportees and refugees—are facing certain problems. And the officials of the Islamic Republic have made some promises for solving these problems. Yet none of these promises have been fulfilled. Has your present government established any programs aimed at solving these problems and generally, what is your view about the future of Iraq's problem, especially after the acceptance of the resolution [UN Resolution 598]?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] For the people of Iraq who have come to Iran, at every moment the Islamic Republic of Iran has always welcomed them with open arms, and to the extent that it was possible at the time of war and today, it has helped them as much as it was capable of. And right now too, again, the wave of Iraqi refugees coming to Iran continues; they are coming from Turkey, from Iraq itself. We have many refugee camps in the west and the south where these refugees live. Many of them have been absorbed in the job market in Iran and many of them receive aid from us. The problems that the people of Iraq face in Iran may also be faced by our people, too. Of course there is a series of regulations, after all, someone who enters a place from another country, the laws of that country may be... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] for instance, marriage or employment, or education or traveling, may create problems. I am in favor of these difficulties being decreased. I will do my best to help. The future of the people of Iraq is good, as a rule, since the majority of the people of Iraq are opposed to the Ba'thist system and if they begin a serious struggle they can liberate their country. You probably know that we have approximately 3 million refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan, this is a heavy burden and we have not had any assistance from world centers—that is, we support them ourselves. We do not neglect our good Muslim guests.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can we hope to witness the solution of the Iraqis' problems in the near future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I hope so.

[Coordinator] The next question is from NBC. May I ask Mr Ja'fari from the Iranian radio and television organization to be ready next.

[NBC correspondent in English] Your Excellency, in the last few weeks Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine-General Command has been in Iran. Investigators believe there is strong evidence that Mr Jibril's group was involved in the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, England, in December; and they

say Iran may have sponsored it as a vengeance attack for the downing of the Iran Airbus. First, what was Mr Jibril doing in Iran? Secondly, was the Iranian Government or a group operating outside of the government involved in the Lockerbie bombing?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What is said against the named Palestinian group is merely an accusation. That is, no court or reliable source has proved such an accusation. One cannot accept anything by merely an accusation. But as to why they come to Iran, we support all the struggling groups, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese struggles; and they can come to Iran. This is our policy and this is our declared policy. Sorry, what was the next part of the question? Yes I remember. As to the question whether there are some in Iran who can issue such orders outside Iran; as far as we know there are no such persons in Iran. Basically, we do not entertain such thoughts in Iran. We regard as wrong and condemn the thought that we might have agreed to the downing of the plane and the killing of a large number of innocent people in revenge for the crime committed by the Americans in the Persian Gulf. In Iran there are no such people to carry out or desire to do such bad deeds. I think you better not believe such vilifications either. Let the atmosphere become more healthy. The morality of courage exists in Iran to declare explicitly what it accepts.

[Coordinator in English] The next is Mr Ja'fari of the Iranian radio and television, and afterward it will be the turn of TEHRAN TIMES correspondent to be ready.

[Ja'fari] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in view of the fact that the present period is named the period of reconstruction, since fewer questions are asked in this regard, I raise two questions. My first question is this: We heard in the news that the government will soon announce its new policy on ways of combating economic difficulties. I wanted to ask you to explain this policy, if it is ready, and how and when it is going to be implemented. The second question is about employing the possibilities of those countries that can assist us in this field. I would like to know what criteria the government will use to select those countries that can place their abilities at our disposal in some way.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About your first question, we have prepared a plan for our factories. We have divided them into three categories. The first category will buy dollars at the rate fixed by the government, that is, seven tumans per dollar. They can then produce the essential goods required by the people and will sell them at a low price. Another category includes those industries that receive the foreign currency at the level fixed for exporters. They can produce goods and sell them to people or export them at the cost that is in proportion to the price of the currency. The third category includes those industries that obtain currency from the government at the open market price, which is the so-called competitive price. They then export their products in the first place, or sell them to the people. I think the third category, that is, the open market price of the foreign

currency, will be announced either today or tomorrow. This is the category that can pull in as much currency as is required, be it in the private or state sector.

When this plan is implemented, our industries will become quite active and there will be sufficient production in the country. Our exports will also increase. This will create employment and the government will save rials by selling foreign currency at the higher rate. I think this is a good move toward a flourishing economy and reducing inflation. Of course this is our first job. About your second question, we have sent several draft bills to the Majlis. Approval by the Majlis would enable us to implement these draft bills with the financial resources borrowed from abroad. Some of these bills were approved last year. When these bills are all ratified in the Majlis, we will sign agreements with any government or any company in the world that is acceptable to us and is ready to implement these bills in accordance with our conditions.

[Coordinator in English] Mr 'Erfan from TEHRAN TIMES, it is your turn now; and could the correspondent of the FINANCIAL TIMES prepare himself to ask the next question.

[TEHRAN TIMES correspondent 'Erfan] Mr President! could you tell us the exact date when the 5-year plan will start? Could you also tell us which areas will be given priority in the 5-year plan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The 5-year plan was supposed to start this year, the year 68. But since it was not ready, it did not happen. It now depends on its ratification in the Majlis. If it were to be ratified in the Majlis within the next couple of months, the implementation date might be early next year; it might be implemented as soon as it is ratified. There is an idea, for instance, to start it in the third quarter of the current year. There is another proposal that perhaps we could move up the fiscal year; that is bring it sooner than 21 March, because our working year also begins in March, and we must prepare the budget and programs in advance to implement them from the beginning of spring. There is a suggestion to start the fiscal year on the 1st day of winter [22 December]. At any rate, the Majlis should decide the exact date.

[Coordinator in English] The next person to ask a question is from FINANCIAL TIMES. Could I ask Mr Tiland from Turkish television to be the next person?

[FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent in English] Mr President, how will Iran change under your leadership? Specifically, will there be a warming of relations with the West? As a second question I would like to ask whether governments or private firms will be allowed to open up credit for a project?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] About the change in our policy with the West, the hue and cry raised is not very true; even from the start we had no intention of having our relations strained with the West. It was the Westerners

who always undertook unworthy measures, which led to somewhat of an undesirable situation. Those countries of the West that are prepared to arrange relations with us in a proper manner, on the basis of the policy of equal treatment, without extortion, expansionism, and seeking to monopolize us—something that the Westerners were accustomed to in Iran before—for those ready to have relations on this basis, Iran is ready to work with them. Of course, the United States has a particular problem with us. Serious difficulties exist between us and the United States because of the bad things that happened before the revolution, before the war, in the course of the war, during the last days of the war and after that. A clear example of this is the fact that contrary to international norms, our assets have been frozen in the United States. In connection with your second question, I must say we have plans that our banks will guarantee and provide credit for the private sector which intends to purchase goods from abroad. Our banks will provide guarantees for both state companies and the private sector.

[Coordinator in English] Mr Tiland from Turkish Television. The next will be Mr Vatankhah from the daily JOMHURI-E ESLAMI.

[Turkish Television correspondent Tiland in English] Mr President, many people, almost everybody believes that a new era has started in Iran, as my Japanese friend said a while ago. Turkish-Iranian relations today are far from being qualified as excellent. Despite some special aspects these relations have (?deteriorated) during Iran's war in the Gulf. Mr President, my question is this: How does your leadership approach Turkey and what will be the main elements of your Turkish policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to Turkey I would like to improve our relations. Of course, I am not very happy with the current level of relations. I think our relations can be better than this. We can have more extensive relations with your government and your people. To me it is a good point to have our commercial transactions, our technical cooperation, our political cooperation in the region, particularly the role that cooperation between us, Turkey, and Pakistan can play in the region's development and policy. I hope that we can improve the level of relations from what it is now. The previous government [of Premier Musavi] intended to implement a policy of expanding relations; but some unexpected minor incidents have always prevented desirable growth of these relations.

[Tiland in English] The economic policies you described a while ago remind me of the first steps of Turkish economic restructuring. Would your leadership care to share Turkish experiences in that area?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We would like to use those experiences.

[Coordinator in English] The Iranian daily, JOMHURI-E ESLAMI, inform me that they have no question. So I'll ask another Iranian daily, KAYHAN's correspondent

Mr Tavakoli. And I also ask Mr Christopher Walker to be the next questioner. Now the KAYHAN correspondent.

[JOMHURI-E ESLAMI correspondent, correcting the coordinator] JOMHURI-E ESLAMI newspaper, you mean.

[Coordinator in English] You had questions? I was told you didn't have any.

[JOMHURI-E ESLAMI correspondent] In the name of God. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani! Recently in Friday prayers, you talked about abolishing subsidies. I would like to know whether you intended something special from posing that issue, or whether you want to mention a particular commodity. I would like this to be clarified.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Right now we do not think that we can abolish subsidies, and we must continue to provide them for a long time to come. What I discussed in the Friday prayers sermon was the country's problems. I said that one of our problems was that we had to provide lots of subsidies for people, such as bread for which we purchase the wheat at ten times the price that we sell to people. And the same applies to sugar or oil. The oil minister says that we are prepared for people to come to the refineries and collect the oil themselves free of charge. That is to say that we [the Oil Ministry] only charge people for the transport of oil. Or the price of meat as sold to the people is only one-third of the price we pay to farmers. There are also many other goods and commodities that are supplied to people at approximately one-tenth of the original cost. This was a certain necessity under the war conditions, because inflation was breaking people's backs. In the future, also, as far as there is not enough economic growth in the country in order to make supply and demand correspond, then we are forced to maintain subsidies, although it is very expensive for the government.

[JOMHURI-E ESLAMI correspondent] The second question is that if in this Islamic society we have now, hoarding is an offense, will the government be able to confront hoarders and price-gougers with the existing machinery of state punishment? If your answer is no, please state what program you have in mind in order to confront them?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not think that we have any legal problems, that is to say, we have enough legal means to prevent hoarders. Our fundamental policy is that we strive to create a healthy atmosphere in the way that healthy supply and demand and healthy trade should be established, where trust reigns. The moment we feel that this is no longer possible, then we will certainly utilize means we do not really want to use. Our issue is an executive one and not a legal one. If we intend to carry out such tasks, then we need more elaborate executive means.

[Coordinator in English] Mr Christopher Walker from the London TIMES. I ask Mr Tavakoli from KAYHAN to be next.

[TIMES correspondent in English] Mr President, I'd like to ask two questions if I could. Firstly, Penguins Books, one of the biggest publishers in Britain, has announced recently its intentions of publishing the book "The Satanic Verses" in paperback in the West before the end of the year. I'd like to know how the Iranian authorities react to that news, and how they will react when the book is published and made available to a much wider audience than that which has been able to read the rather expensive hardback version that has so far circulated in the West.

Secondly, I'd like to ask whether there is any movement planned in the future of Mr Roger Cooper, as I gather that his sister-in-law, Mrs Lilly Cooper, recently held two meetings with him in the prison, and also met with one of your very senior judicial officials. Does this indicate any change in his future or not? Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As regards the first issue, we have no new plan. The opinion that his holiness the imam declared on Rushdie is the policy of the Islamic Republic.

As regards the second issue, as you are aware, Cooper has been convicted in Iran and is now serving his sentence. As the charge of espionage is very despicable in Iran, and people profoundly hate spies, his case is a bit difficult as far as public opinion goes. He had been using the facilities of our country in the guise of someone serving Iran, whereas in reality he was acting against the country by passing our country's secrets to the enemies during the war. You can see the confessions that he has written in his own handwriting, or you could talk to him, and he will tell you that he has betrayed our country.

[Coordinator in English] Now Mr Tavakoli from the Iranian daily, KEYHAN, and then I ask Mr Alexander [name indistinct] from ASSOCIATED PRESS to be next.

[Tavakoli] I have two questions. First, alongside your government's economic programs aimed at confronting inflation, high prices, and intermediaries, do you also have plans to firmly confront economic terrorists? Or are compromises going to be made with them as before? The second question: How do you appraise the future of political and economic reforms in the Eastern block, given its pace and acceleration? Does this generally benefit the people of East Europe and the nonaligned countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is now clear that Iranian correspondents are predominantly sensitive about economic issues, while Western correspondents are sensitive about hostage issues. This is apparent from the theme of questions. In connection with confronting hoarders, we intend that those who really act with the aim of sabotage and harmful profiteering should be confronted

firmly without any mercy or compromise. Of course, there are some normal and small phenomena—because of the existing shortages—that can be overlooked within the market. As regards the second question, it seems that Marxism has reached a deadend, and the highest officials of the left have announced the debacle of Marxism. This is something that we always predicted. We always had this idea that the Marxist way of thinking both in economics and in philosophy was not right and it did not correspond to the realities of the outside world nor to human nature. Further, we consider this as being in the interest of the people, as Marxism was a wrong mode of thinking which was imposed on a part of the world and produced many ill effects. The more free of that chain the people become is to their benefit. Of course, on the other side of coin, it should be said that, with the debacle of Marxism, capitalism should not be approved of, because it also goes against justice. The discriminations in capitalism conflict with justice and the rights of the majority of people. We ourselves have our method, and we believe that mixed economics can be effective. Islam also has this type of economic system.

As far as centralization of power in the hands of government is concerned, we take the middle line where fundamental sectors should be run by the government while the bulk of other activities should be left to the people. We hope that through the contradiction between Marxism and capitalism a middle ground, which is correct, should prevail.

[Coordinator in English] Now Mr Alexander [name indistinct] from ASSOCIATED PRESS, and then it will be the representative from the Iranian daily, RESALAT.

[AP correspondent in English] Mr President, the last time we had the pleasure of meeting you, we had a long discussion, you and I, about the hostages. We have practically exhausted the problem this time, but I would like to pose one final question. Would you be prepared to appeal to all people holding hostages, those holding the Iranians and those holding others in Lebanon, to release them, pointing out that there is no purpose in holding these people any longer?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. I am totally prepared. Right now I say that hostage-taking is an antihumanitarian act which bears no political fruit. Anyone who commits such an act has made a mistake. However, in our interpretation, we must locate the original factor, that is to say that you always go and condemn small groups, while we condemn big powers. You should condemn Israel which kidnaps the Lebanese people illegitimately and enters another country's soil in order to take hostages. You should condemn the United States, which officially condones the Maronites who started the act of hostage-taking in Lebanon. You should not concentrate on small groups who are oppressed and as an act of self defense do unwise acts, like small children who scream when they become frustrated. We must try to see what causes the child to scream.

[AP correspondent in English] Another question to get away from the hostages. The Western press in general talks about the pragmatists and the radicals, and that there is opposition in Iran about improving relations with the West. Can you give us your opinion about this? Is there a conflict in Iran about this? Do you want to improve relations with the West? Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course it cannot be said that there are no differences of opinions here. That means there really does exist two modes of thought. However, what the majority of our people and officials think does not fit within the framework of radicalism, as you interpret it. You saw that your interpretation of the Majlis was not correct, as the majority of Majlis members and our people in their votes and selections follow a logical path. In connection to the West, the majority idea in Iran is that if the West adopts a logical and nonhegemonist policy vis-a-vis Iran, then it can establish good relations with Iran, as we now have this type of relations with some of the Western countries.

[Coordinator in English] A representative from the Iranian daily RESALAT and Richard Dixon of CNN will be the next.

[RESALAT correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you mentioned that the third phase of the economic programs will be implemented soon. What sections do these cover and what is involved?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I explained that when I answered the previous question that another one of the Iranian correspondents asked. Our first step is to make our industries active. I have divided them into three parts and I have mentioned the way they would be dealt with. Our next practical task is to give a freer hand to the people for economic issues and to seek more of their cooperation in those issues and in particular in agricultural industries and the issues of education and other tasks that have been planned.

[Coordinator in English] Richard Dixon from CNN and next would be a correspondent from the Iranian daily ETTELA'AT. Mr Richard Dixon.

[CNN correspondent Richard Dixon in English] Mr President, you have an ambitious 5-year program of reconstruction, part of which I understand we will be going to see. Could you tell us to what degree the funding of that program is dependent on the sale of oil, and according to your plan, for your plans to succeed, what must be the price of oil? And is this not a little difficult to plan 5 years ahead when you are heavily dependent on oil when its price has fluctuated lately?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We tried hard to plan our program realistically and not ambitiously. We have not been ambitious and we are not 100-percent dependent on oil, we have thought of various sources for the program. You can study accurately the sources of our program and you will see they are not out of reach in usual accounts. Even a number of our economists used to say in discussions

that you behave pessimistically and that we should try to jump longer. About the price of oil, we have been realistic in our attitude. Currently, we have not taken into account a high price for oil. We thought we had to move according to the limits of OPEC and if one day the price of oil improves, we have to expand our program a little bit more.

[Dixon in English] May I put to you, Mr President, not so much a question (?but a) plea, on behalf, I think my colleagues would agree, of our colleagues, Terry Anderson and John McCarthy who are held hostage in Lebanon. They are not government, they are only men, and you said that you don't have much influence on the matter, but you have a great deal more influence than we have. Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I would really like to help the hostages to be released, and I do not say we cannot. If our situation improves we would be able to have influence too. We have done that in a few cases in the past. But I believe that your government has deliberately kept the hostages as a bridge to pass over to make relations with the Islamic Republic. This is a mistake. If there is a way, that is opposite to this direction. I mean, they have to enter from a human way, the legitimate way. First they prove that they have no hostility toward us until we become encouraged and help. We have decided on two ways: Choose one of them. You talk to your government. You should not talk to us much.

One, you come and free our assets as a sign of your good intentions. You have to do that anyway, and we will take these from you one day. Two, if you love money too much and do not want to return our money to us, come and tell your agents in Beirut to free our hostages. If you come and say our hostages are not alive—we do not accept that and, God willing, they are alive—then come and give us their corpses, show us their graves, until we enter the scenes together, for your interest.

[Coordinator in English] Representative from the Iranian daily ETTELA'AT. Next will be (J.F. Lauren) from L'EXPRESS.

[ETTELA'AT correspondent] In the name of God. As you are aware, the irregular increase in population is one of our society's biggest problems. With regard to a lack of balance in the country's present resources and the rapid rise of our population, don't you think that this will stop our economic growth? What plans do you have in this sphere?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the 5-year program there is a policy for birth control. But we cannot use some strong means which have been used in other countries. We offer advice and the media are performing their duties.

[Coordinator in English] (J.F. Lauren) from L'EXPRESS and Miss Mary Calvin from the SUNDAY TIMES will be next.

[Lauren]] Mr President, with your permission I have two questions. From the day after tomorrow the financial discussions between Iran and France about the \$1-billion loan by Iran begin in Paris. Is there going to be any new initiative from Iran? Second, in Europe some reports are circulating—I do not know if they are propaganda or not—that there have been three attempts on your life. Is this correct, or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, about the existing financial differences between us and France, it seems that the discussions are becoming serious. I believe both sides are serious about solving their problems. We have no particular expectations. We say the same agreement between us, on both issues, where you owe us or where we owe you, should be implemented without any points to the sides. I hope that we will overcome the obstacle with the efforts that have been invested into this.

As regards your second question as to whether there have been any attempts on my life, in all my days there has only once been an attempt on my life. Then I was wounded and I recovered. Since then nothing has taken place, and any rumors about that are lies.

[Coordinator in English] Miss Mary Calvin from the SUNDAY TIMES, and representative from Iranian daily, ABRAR, will be next.

[Calvin] Mr President, as regards relations between Iran and the United States, it always seems that there is no way to establish some kind of contact. I wanted to ask: Are there any indirect contacts with the new Bush administration to solve some of the existing problems between Iran and the United States? Have there been any attempts at that, or not?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There have been no direct contacts, apart from the one during the time of Mr Reagan, that of Mr McFarlane. That group came here and you know the situation. We have received some messages indirectly through some neighboring countries. The United States has sent us a message saying that they have no ill intentions and are willing to solve their problems with us. Because we cannot trust these words we have asked for some signs of good intentions. One sign we asked for was the freeing of our assets, which is a proper expectation, and another was the solution of the much delayed Hague issues. We want the problem to be resolved in one go to stop wasting the time of the two nations and the two governments.

[Coordinator in English] [Words indistinct] and Mr (Akira Mahida) from (?MAINICHI) newspaper in Japan will be next.

[(?MAINICHI) correspondent (Akira Mahida) in English] Mr President, the U.S. Government has given a free hand to the federal police, the FBI, for carrying out kidnapping and coup d'etat operations. Are the Islamic Republic, the progressive countries, and Third World countries not determined to take any steps against this U.S. policy?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From the start, one of our methods has been the policy of reciprocity. If the Americans carry out in some instances what they have recently said that they will carry out and if it concerns us in some way, then we shall also act in the same way; but we hope that the Americans will not act in this way, because this is a kind of hegemonistic policy throughout the world, that they in their country may make a decision that their police can universally implement the sentences of their courts in other people's countries.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] You have said that the people should feel secure for participating and for making use of their financial resources in production. What guarantees will the government provide for this security?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The government possesses all the means of guaranteeing this. Our security capabilities and our courts and political programs will support this view. Even now the same is true. Those who make some investments enjoy this security. In the future, the further away we get from the war, the more we will strengthen this security.

[Coordinator in English] (Akira Mahida) from (?MAINICHI) newspaper, Japan, and Miss Jane Murphy from THE WASHINGTON POST will be next.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Mr President, since you have been (?at the post) of president, you have often mentioned the necessity of freedom of speech, and in order to motivate this country's reconstruction era, it is essential that all the experts residing outside of Iran return and have their own role. I do think that this is true, but I have some, I feel there is some (?menacing) point.

In April, the party law has been announced to be implemented and 30 or 40 groups have asked for their recognition, but so far according to the reports which we have, there is no sufficient announcement how it was being implemented, how many groups has been approved; and unfortunately during your campaign period of this president's elections, the Bazargan groups have announced that since there is no freedom of speech or elections we are not going to participate. What will be the future of the freedom of speech or where will be these parties which could take certain roles in construction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Naturally, we are faithful to the law which we passed through the Majlis. We have implemented that law and there are no limitations. It is possible that some people cannot form a party within the context of that law, because there are certain conditions. If those parties act in accordance with the law, then we will definitely allow them to form a party. Some people say, because they know that they have no following in Iran, that not many people are in favor of their ideas, they resort to such talk; for instance, saying that because there is no freedom they do not come out to the field.

If you were present during the Iranian elections and could see how the people voted, then you would know that the person who was my rival in the elections, the Freedom Movement [led by Mehdi Bazargan], had not the slightest lack of freedom. If they wished they could take part in the elections under his name. As they knew that they themselves had no votes, they did not enter the field. In any case, we have no problem with the parties having activities here. However, when some people see that in reality they have no public support, then those who are against government policies and who are not supported by public opinion retreat into a corner using these excuses.

[Unidentified correspondent continues in English] Thank you very much, and can I say one more thing? Last year around this period on the occasion of Genscher's visit to Iran I do remember that you had given us a very wonderful press meeting, and then you had told us to get in touch with the staff, which we have done but, unfortunately, we did not succeed. I again would like to have this opportunity to have one, hand to hand talking, thank you very much.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have also received many requests for personal interviews from among the present group, but, no doubt, you will agree with me that I have the problem of a shortage of time. Now go on again, perhaps we can find time.

[Coordinator in English] Miss Jane Murphy from THE WASHINGTON POST and Mr Ralph Joseph from UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL will be next.

[WASHINGTON POST correspondent Murphy in English] Hello Mr President. Since I am at the end, most of the questions that I intended to ask have already been asked, so I like to ask a follow-up question. On the process of relations between your country and the United States—this is sort of a theoretical question—if the situation of the hostages is resolved and if the situation of the frozen assets is resolved, I would like to hear you talk a little bit about what you see as the common interests or common grounds on which a relationship could be built between the United States and your country. And secondly, I would like to know do you think there is a role for U.S. companies in the reconstruction of your country? And if there is such a role what is it? And what safeguards could you give them for their investments here?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] On the first question, it is still too early to say. First we need to remove the obstacles so that we can then see what we should do. Regarding the second one: At the moment I do not think that U.S. companies will have an opportunity to be active in Iran.

[Coordinator in English] Mr Ralph Joseph from UPI and Steven Lloyd from ITN, the British ITN, will be next.

[UPI correspondent Joseph in English] Mr President, you have told us that the hostages in Lebanon are being held by independent groups, whereas the general belief is

that these independent groups are under the umbrella organization which is called Hizballah. Now the Hizballah, whether this is true or not, the Hizballah certainly would have influence over these groups and the Hizballah has visited Iran, Hizballah leaders have frequently visited Iran many times. Since you announced in July that you are ready to assist in having the hostages released, has the subject of the hostages been taken up with the Hizballah, or what were the subjects of discussions? Why were all these visits paid by Hizballah leaders to Tehran over the last 2 or 3 months? And is anything being done at all to solve the problem?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The leaders of Hizballah do not accept that they have any connection with the hostage-taking. In fact, it has not yet been made clear to us that they are connected with them.

[UPI correspondent Joseph in English] May I ask another question? What were the subjects that were discussed between Iran and the Hizballah during the several visits that the Hizballah leaders made to Iran over the past 2 or 3 months?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have many common points to discuss, about Lebanon, the problems of Lebanon, the Palestinian problems, the problems of the world of Islam, the struggle against colonialism, the struggle against aggression. We have many points of common interest with them.

[Coordinator in English] Mr Steven Lloyd from the ITN and Mr Nasim (al-Zahra) from the NATION [words indistinct].

[ITN correspondent Lloyd in English] Could I ask, okay. There seems to be a desire in Turkey and Islamabad that the special relations between the two countries be developed. What direction would you like these relationships to take place and in what specific area should cooperation be encouraged?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Your officials who came here discussed with us about the areas of cooperation in reconstruction. We also have joint projects at the moment. The important thing which you and we should do is to safeguard the security of the region, mop up Baluchistan from the insurgents for the security of your country and our country, and fight against any smuggling that takes place in the region. Regarding development issues, there are many cases and delegations will be exchanged in the near future to clarify them.

[ITN correspondent Lloyd in English] May I ask a question on Afghanistan please? You said that you came up with complete understanding with President Gorbachev in June. On this special issue what understanding did you come to on the Afghan issue?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What we announced was that Afghanistan should be a Muslim and independent country, part of the Third World, with the presence of all the people of Afghanistan itself in the government; that

there should be noninterference of foreign countries in Afghanistan; that the situation should develop in that way, and that Afghanistan should develop good relations with its neighbors.

[ITN correspondent Lloyd in English] And do you think that the United Nations has a role to play in breaking that political stalemate and the tension that exists between the anti-Najibullah Afghan groups today?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We prefer that the United Nations be present. Of course, the cooperation between Pakistan, Iran, and the Soviet Union and India will also be necessary.

[ITN correspondent Lloyd in English] And India?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, and India and China. All the neighbors should be coordinated.

[Correspondents from British television ITV's TV-AM program and REUTER in English] My question relates to Roger Cooper. Earlier you said if we met with Roger Cooper he would be able to tell us himself about his confessions to espionage. I would like to formally request permission to interview Roger Cooper. Would that be possible? You said earlier it would be.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You should address the relevant authorities. I will impress on them to help you.

[Same correspondent in English] Does that mean that I will be able to interview him?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You should refer to the relevant authorities. They will instruct you.

[Same correspondent in English] Before you were asked about the future of Roger Cooper. Are you able to say whether or not his future will change in the near future at all?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] One cannot say for the moment.

[JANA correspondent in Arabic] JANA, Mr President. There was talk of reconstruction today. Does that refer to war damage or the destruction caused by the previous regime? Will Iranian experts living abroad be invited to take part in the reconstruction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] When we refer to reconstruction, it covers everything—war damage, destruction in the previous era, as well as creating new things—development to complement the rest. We want expatriate Iranians to take part. It is up to them. If they want they can come and take part.

[Japanese correspondent in English] Mr President, almost a year ago, when German Foreign Minister Genscher was here to visit you, a certain number of projects, big projects, that would be mutually beneficial, were envisaged. The German industrialists accompanying Genscher were interested in expanding their activities in your country, and their Iranian counterparts in state industries and in private business seemed very

interested. Since then there has been business as usual. But, from the larger prospects not much has materialized. So I want to ask you: What obstacles do you see on the German side that have developed to keep these visions from becoming realities? On the other hand, are there political groups within Iran that are opposed to intensifying cooperation? And are these groups influential enough to make their ways felt?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The negligence was on the part of the Germans. We were, and are, ready to cooperate. No one in Iran is opposed to cooperation with Germany. As you are aware, the EEC decision tied Germany's hands. But, it seems that the ice is now beginning to melt.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Last year, or rather about 15 months ago, when Iran accepted UN Resolution 598, certain important people in your country said that the cease-fire was accepted for certain reasons that could not be disclosed then. Now, 15 months later, is it not time to disclose the reasons?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The war is not over. We are in a no war, no peace situation. Therefore we do not deem it appropriate to explain further than we have.

[FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent in English] Mr President, you have spoken about legal ways of utilizing foreign investments in planned economic and industrial programs. Please tell us about the 5-year plan, which includes attracting foreign investments. How much in foreign investments do you expect to attract? And, after the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its policy on this matter, will there be certain guidelines for foreign investments?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] These projects envisaged are those that will be able to repay their debts after they are implemented. After the project is implemented a fresh source of income is created, which could repay the debts resulting from it. These are in the fields of gas, petrochemicals, large dams, and so on. So far, we have received proposals. We have already reached agreements on some of them. We are waiting for the Majlis to approve these projects. Then contracts will be signed.

[Same correspondent in English] [Question indistinct]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have allocated \$15-20 billion in our 5-year plan.

[Same correspondent in English] Yes, I'm still slightly puzzled by the economic policy and, in particular, the industrial capitalization of which you spoke, about the three categories of factories. How does that differ from the present situation? And how do you expect it to work? You were very optimistic. You were saying: This will produce lots of goods. Supply and demand will be balanced and everything will improve. Can you say exactly how you expect that to work for those three tiers? And, connected with that, on the foreign investments: You haven't, I don't think, been very specific about what kind of guarantees people will get once they decide to

invest in Iran. I think you spoke about Iranian law and so on. Do you envisage an investment code for something more specific to protect and guarantee investments?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The division I made was that I said—the industries about which you are not clear is a clear matter—I said: We will divide our existing factories into three categories. One category must produce necessary consumer goods; their consumption is domestic. Those will use foreign exchange at the government rate of 7 toman [70 rials] per dollar. Another category will produce moderately needed goods. They will use export foreign exchange at an export rate; foreign currency now has three rates in Iran. Their goods will be consumed at a medium price. There is another category of goods that are not very necessary in our country. They will obtain free-rate foreign exchange at whatever price they attract on the market; the government will give them foreign exchange. Their goods are also free. They may export them to obtain their own foreign exchange or sell them domestically at a free market price as appropriate to free-rate foreign exchange. And all our factories are eager for us. They have already started to get help from the government.

On foreign capital, if it wants to come—Iran is one of the most trustworthy countries in the world. Even during the war we were able to fulfill all our commitments. Now, too, those who are engaged in business with us know that; because of the plentiful natural wealth of our country, serious guarantees exist here.

[Same correspondent in English] Can I ask a very brief question about—you said that private companies will now be able to get credit from abroad through the banks. Will the state be borrowing money? Or state industries be borrowing money? This is already being suggested in Iran, I think.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the 5-year plan, we have not foreseen any loans. There are only those projects for which we can use foreign resources to construct them. This is a policy which was designed by the Majlis in last year's budget to the effect that some projects should be implemented in that way.

[Same correspondent in English] Thank you. One last request. I think you mentioned to one of my colleagues that it might be possible to extend a 5-day visa. I think there are a lot of other people who would also be very interested in having a few extra days in Iran because there are many things to see and many places to go. Is that possible do you think?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What I said was not for the other correspondent in particular; that possibility exists for all ladies and gentlemen. I will tell the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and the Foreign Ministry to cooperate so that you are able to stay here to the extent that you would like.

[Coordinator in English] [Words indistinct] from KEYHAN and next will be (Nick Williams) from the LOS ANGELES TIMES.

[KEYHAN correspondent] Your eminence, Mr President. What plans do you have under way to attract and draw back Iranian specialists and scientists living abroad? And, in general, what is the role of that group in the country's reconstruction and rebuilding? In addition, a large group of Iranian refugees abroad have expressed regret and remorse and have a strong desire to return to Iran. Abroad, they have suffered cultural, mental, physical, and [words indistinct] problems. What can you do to help them?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What concerns us is that there should not be any obstacles in the way of their return and there are no obstacles. Those who want to come will find no obstacles in their way; even those who have committed minor offences. They will be forgiven if they want to come. The rest is up to them. If they do not want to come themselves, we cannot bring anyone back by force and we will not do so.

[Coordinator in English] (Nick Williams') question has been already answered. I ask (Tom Simpson) from CBS News to ask his question and, I think, according to my list, (Harry Morris) from the British daily INDEPENDENT will be the last.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Are there a lot of questions? Are there many questions left?

[Coordinator in English] (?On the list), two people.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Two people.

[Coordinator in English] But we can open it up in general. We ask if there are any other questions.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Very well, let us just finish the list.

[CBS correspondent (Tom Simpson) in English] Mr President, it's been 9 years, I think, since I've seen the inside of the former U.S. Embassy. During our stay here, as part of our program, could I have permission to take our camera team inside to report on how the former U.S. Embassy is now being used.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That must be decided by security officials. From my point of view, there is no problem because the Americans know what is there after all and we do not have anything in particular there. The walls are low. You can also go and look from the outside. [general laughter]

[Same correspondent in English] Well, could we have permission to take pictures over the walls then? Because we were told that we would be arrested if we took pictures anywhere near it.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No there is no danger. Go and take pictures with my guarantee.

[Coordinator in English] I can guarantee that [words indistinct] for you to take photographs over the wall.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We, too, have a great deal of property in U.S. warehouses which we would like to see. Will they give us permission? [Coordinator translates this into English] [general laughter]

[Coordinator in English] And (Harry Morris) from the British daily INDEPENDENT.

[Correspondent (Morris) in English] Mr President, on 13 July this year, Abdorrahman Qasemlu was murdered in Vienna in the course of discussions, apparently with Iranian representatives. Have you had an opportunity to conduct your own investigation of what happened during the course of that day? And what are the results of that investigation, if any?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, when our officials came back and spoke about it, it emerged that they had not recognized the (?intruders) either. We guess that they were either Iraqi agents or Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] agents, who were opposed to that development, or else a sectarian off-shoot of the [Kurdish] Democrats. However, I have no basis for my assertions. It is just a guess.

[Coordinator in English] Do you have another question? OK. That was the last name I've got on my list. And I think, with the permission of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that I will take the liberty to thank the ladies and gentlemen, foreign journalists, who have participated in this meeting. Thank you very much.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Is the work finished then?

[Coordinator] Yes. Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We thank all our guests who came here and asked their questions and we hope that you have the chance to go around, to see Iran and to reflect on the realities as you judge them. In Iran, the atmosphere is completely open and we do not intend to hide anything from our people or from friendly eyes. Good-bye.

Daily Comments on Briefing

LD2410064389 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT
24 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial Tuesday commented on President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Monday press conference and the repeated questions asked about Western hostages in Lebanon.

The daily said that one of the reporters present at the conference "hinted about the 25,000 Lebanese who lost their lives in the 1982 U.S. supported Israeli invasion of Lebanon" which sparked the hostage crisis.

"Who other than the West" is responsible for the present crisis in Lebanon? asked the daily.

The paper also criticized the media representatives attending the conference for not asking about the compensation for the families of 290 innocent passengers of an Iranian airbus who were blasted to pieces by the U.S.S. Vincennes over the Persian Gulf on July 3, 1987.

"We intended to point out the truth that the U.S. is the real culprit behind all the mischiefs whether in Lebanon or elsewhere," said the daily stating that its reporter was to raise these questions but did not get the chance.

Editorial on Improving Relations With France

NC2010122489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
16 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Improving Ties With Iran Subject to Mutual Respect"]

[Text] Now that there are signs of a thaw emerging in relations between Iran and France it will not be out of place to review the currents which led to the souring of relationship between the two in order to avert repetition of them.

It is encouraging to hear that the Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of European and American Affairs, Mr. Mahmud Va'ez'i is expected to make a visit shortly to France to sort out various matters, in response to an earlier visit to Tehran by the French Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Scheer in September. The two sides agreed at the time to pursue a timetable for monthly reciprocal visits by their officials.

Mr. Va'ez'i's visit takes place within an agreed framework. Media reports say that French Foreign Minister Ronald Dumas had earlier sent a message to his counterpart here Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressing the importance of bilateral negotiations on international issues. What is obvious is that the improvement in the diplomatic relationship between the two countries will contribute greatly to the stability of the Middle East region.

However, in the light of past experience, foreign policy makers of Iran must take certain precautions. France in the first place should do all it must to steer clear of infringing on the sensitivities of the Muslims and avoid anything that can recreate tensions. Many a time before French relations with Iran became the butt of power struggle within France between the Socialists, Communists, the National Front and others. Each had a different attitude and axe to grind and the issue of relationship with Iran became a play ground to settle their political rivalry. Moreover, France should try not to delay the settlement of the final payment of the \$1 billion due to Tehran from the Eurodif company.

As for the Islamic Republic, it has always emphasized on the friendly relations with other countries, provided those countries would accept the Islamic Revolution as a historical fact and do not pursue ways and means of weakening it. It cannot be expected that this Revolution would ever step over its fundamental principles, revival

of spiritual tendencies and human values. From the political point of view the path is clear, as it was set by the late leader of the Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and that is the rejection of being oppressor or oppressed. This irrevocable principle is the motto of our foreign policy that includes bilateral relations with other countries, including France. In this regard, countries who do not have any animosity toward Iran can enjoy the fruits of a healthy relationship with the Islamic Republic, and they should face no problem in the way of upgrading economic, cultural and commercial contacts with it.

Soviet Ministers To Visit 'in December'

LD2410083789 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 24, IRNA—Three Soviet ministers are expected to visit Iran in December, said Soviet Minister of Railways who is also the co-chairman of Irano-Soviet Joint Economic Commission Nikolay Konarev here Monday.

Konarev is to accompany Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev and Minister of Heavy and Transport Machine Building Vladimir Velichko.

Konarev announced this in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Nasir Heyrani-Nobari.

During the meeting, Konarev said that the last June visit to Moscow of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's was a "historical and significant turning point" in Tehran-Moscow relations.

"The Soviet Union is ready to do all it can to carry out the agreements reached between the two countries last June," he said describing the forthcoming visit is an step in this direction.

Konarev also expressed the hope that the 12th session of the joint economic commission will be held in Tehran in December.

Pakistani Air Force Commander Continues Visit

Meets With Defense Minister

LD2310104189 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Tehran-Islamabad military and strategic cooperation were discussed in a meeting of the visiting Pakistani Air Force Commander General Hakimullah and Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Turkan here Monday.

Expansion of ties between the armed forces of the two countries were also stressed in the meeting.

General Hakimullah heading a military delegation arrived here last Wednesday.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC2410061389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Major General Hakimullah, commander of the Pakistani Air Force, and the delegation accompanying him yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the commander of our Air Force, Brigadier General Sattari, the Pakistani Air Force commander referred to the excellent and sincere relations between the two friendly and fraternal countries of Pakistan and Iran and briefed the president on his visit to Iran.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction over the extensive bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan and called for the continued expansion of cooperation in various fields between these two Muslim neighboring countries.

Naval Maneuvers Scheduled To Begin 25 Oct

LD2210174289 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Bushehr, Oct. 22, IRNA—The Iranian Navy will conduct 'Paykan-1' naval maneuvers in the northern parts of the Persian Gulf as of Wednesday, commander of the Second Naval Zone announced here today.

He said the main objective of the four-day maneuvers is to train the Navy personnel, boost its military and defensive power and promote its military, technical and tactical knowhow.

"There would also be a power show on the last day of the maneuvers if the Navy commander agrees," he told reporters.

Different classes of naval units together with marines and frogmen will participate in the maneuvers.

Another commander said the navy is capable of staging war games at sea under any circumstances. "The Navy should have constant practice in the Persian Gulf."

Central Bank Governor Predicts Fall in Prices

LD2310204789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] As 80 ships carrying a variety of basic freight docks and unloads in our ports, and as these come on to the market, the prices of the goods and products needed by the people will fall. At a news conference today, Central Bank Governor Adeli announced this and explained the details of the second stage of the government's plans aimed at reducing prices. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] In the second stage of the government's plans to establish economic balance in society and to reduce prices, all the small and big

industrial and productive units belonging to the private and state sectors, in order to meet their needs, may obtain competitive rates of exchange from the branches of the Trade and Exports Bank. Adeli added: The aim of these facilities is to increase the real capacities of those units which, for various reasons, were working at low capacities. It is forecast that the implementation of the second stage of this plan will increase employment and will be followed by a substantial drop in prices.

The Central Bank governor also said: At this stage the number of products imported at a competitive exchange rate has increased. In addition to those products which were hitherto entering the country without any foreign exchange transfer, the owners of industries may import at the competitive exchange rate primary products, equipment, and spare parts needed by industrial units. Adeli added: The government's plan to resolve economic problems is being implemented within the framework of the 5-year plan for the country's economic expansion. By making production activities profitable we are determined to move floating investments from the service and wholesale sector to the production sector.

According to the Central Bank governor, since the government plan to grant foreign exchange facilities began, the prices of certain goods such as cars and electrical and household goods have fallen 10-20 percent. It is forecast that as the government's economic programs are implemented, the prices of goods and services needed by the people will be further reduced.

Exports of Nonoil Goods Show 27.4 Percent Rise

LD2210133489 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—A total of 625,000 tons of non-oil goods worth rials 35.6 billion (dlrs 508 million) was exported in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year beginning March 21, Iran's customs office reported Sunday.

The report said the figures registered an increase of 27.4 percent in terms of value and 20.8 percent in terms of weight as compared with the same period last year.

Handwoven woolen carpets, pistachios and animal skins accounted for 63.5 percent of the exports. The remaining were caviars, shrimps, fish, fresh fruits, vegetables, sulphur and detergents, the report said.

Narcotics Seized, 371 Arrested on Drug Charges

LD2310200689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] In the past 2 days, over 150 kg of narcotics, including opium, hashish, and heroin, have been found by the Islamic revolution committees of the provinces of Khorasan, Fars, and Kerman. Some 371 people were arrested on charges of the sale and transport of and addiction to drugs.

Pakistan

No-Confidence Motion Against Bhutto Submitted

BK2310153989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] The Opposition in the National Assembly has given notice of a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. The spokesman of the Combined Opposition Group, Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, addressing a news conference in Islamabad said that the notice of the no-confidence motion was given to the secretary of the National Assembly this afternoon; it has been signed by 86 members of the opposition. He said that the notice does not include the signatures of the members of Muhajir Qaumi Movement.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1532 GMT adds: "The opposition leaders said the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) now had the support of 129 members of the 237-member house, giving them enough votes to oust Ms. Bhutto. The conservative IJI told a hastily assembled press conference that they had also gained the support of members of the independent Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM)."]

Reacting to the notice of a no-confidence motion, the minister for parliamentary affairs, Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim, said that the opposition had been planning the no-confidence motion since September this year and now they had given the notice of this motion. He said the Pakistan People's Party is fully confident that the motion will be defeated. He added that the members of the assembly have full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, and with God's grace the motion will be defeated with a big majority.

He said the Islamic Democratic Alliance government in Punjab has kept elected members under detention with the help of the provincial administration, which is an illegal and unconstitutional step and against political ethics.

Bhutto 'Confident'

BK2410031089 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 24 Oct 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Pakistan, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, says she is confident that her government will survive a vote of no confidence. Speaking in a BBC interview, she stressed that Pakistan was a democracy; she was ready to accept the decision of Parliament. Opposition politicians say they have the support of more than the simple majority needed to win. Lyce Ducet reports from Islamabad:

[Begin Lyce Ducet recording] Not surprisingly, Pakistani Government officials insist they will survive this most serious challenge by a hostile opposition determined to see them fall. Prime Minister Bhutto was certain the

no-confidence motion, which must be put to a vote within a week, would be defeated. But Monday's announcement that the opposition has filed the motion after weeks of speculation has set off a new intensive round of political horse-trading—the wheeling and dealing which has become the trademark of Pakistani politics.

The minister of information, Ahmed Sayeed Awan, who is playing a role in negotiations for the ruling people's party, said there was still time to discuss the issues with other political parties. He said he was astonished to hear that the people's party's main political ally, the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], had signed an agreement with some opposition parties last month. He said discussions between the people's party and the MQM had taken place only earlier this week about implementing their accords. He admitted the opposition had attracted a few members of parliament belonging to the people's party, but said they would also be approaching opposition members to join their ranks. [end recording]

Politicians View Motion

BK2410092489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Last night in the parliament house Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held an informal meeting with federal ministers, ministers of state, and National Assembly members. Four National Assembly members from the federally administered tribal areas also had a separate meeting with the prime minister and assured her of their full cooperation with the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government. Quoting party sources, APP said the prime minister is fully confident of the stability of her government. PPP workers are fully united to defeat the no confidence motion.

Commenting on the unified opposition's no confidence motion against the government in the National Assembly, Federal Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan said the PPP government is always ready to fulfill democratic commitments. The PPP believes in democratic means and will accept challenges.

Minister of State for Labor and Manpower Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan said the opposition move is a premeditated attempt to destroy the democratic system, and it will not succeed.

Federal Minister for Health and Special Education Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi said this is an unsuccessful attempt by the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad, and it will not gain anything from it.

Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Rao Sikandar Iqbal expressed the hope that the opposition move will fail by a overwhelming majority.

Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar [of the National People's Party] said the opposition has brought the no confidence

motion to damage democracy and make the country unstable. He expressed the hope that the motion will be defeated in the house.

Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah said it is an attempt by anti-democratic elements to damage democratic forces and democratic institutions.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant Professor N.D. Khan said the motion is part of the democratic process and is a right of the opposition parties. However, he said, they will not gain anything from this motion.

The secretary general of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, said the no confidence motion has been brought because of growing poverty in the country and other issues.

Pakistan Democratic Party leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said the no confidence motion is part of the democratic process. He said it is a normal activity in the democratic process, and the no confidence motion is a step against the performance of the ruling party.

BBC on Speculations About Bhutto's Pregnancy

BK2310090189 London BBC World Service in English
0215 GMT 23 Oct 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] On her return from the Commonwealth summit, the Pakistani prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has been forced to deal with renewed speculation over her private life. At a news conference in Islamabad she was asked whether it was true that she was expecting her second child, an issue which—as Lyce Ducet explains—is seen as a legitimate issue for public concern.

[Begin Lyce Ducet recording] The senior journalist who asked the awkward question apologized twice. A smiling prime minister, looking visibly pregnant, accepted her apology and turned very serious, (?as if) she was concealing her irritation. It is not a valid question, she said; I am a political leader prepared to answer questions about my political duties, but not about my private life.

It was an intrusion, but into the personal affairs of the world's youngest prime minister and one of the handful of senior leaders. Some opposition politicians are already talking privately about a constitutional vacuum if the birth and convalescence removed Ms Bhutto from the political scene too long—concerns brushed aside by her officials, who say her mother Nusrat Bhutto, who is the senior minister, will assume the interim. This is expected to happen before the end of the year.

It is not clear whether the opposition will make an issue of the pregnancy. Politicians, especially from fundamentalist religious parties, have often spoken out against a women's rule, calling it un-Islamic. But some opposition leaders recently received bad press for increasingly rude comments, causing them to tone down their language. But Ms Bhutto also has to deal with serious problems on

many fronts, including a hostile opposition, ethnic tensions, and economic difficulties, all of which demand her attention. [end recording]

Unidentified Gunmen Attack Policemen in Karachi

*BK2310155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Some unidentified persons riding motorcycles fired on policemen in the Malir area of Karachi this afternoon. According to police sources, two policemen were killed and another two were injured in the firing. Earlier, two people were injured in a similar incident. They were admitted to Jinnah Hospital. Law enforcement personnel have intensified patrolling in the area.

President Expresses Concern About Confrontations

*BK2310163589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] President Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan has emphasized the need for national cohesion and has said that the survival of the country depends on it. He was talking to a National Awami Party delegation led by its secretary general, Mr Rasul Bux Palijo, which called on him in Islamabad today. The president expressed great concern about increasing confrontation among the people and said that it is the binding duty of all people to work to promote unity. He said the people should express understanding and tolerance. He also said this would create conditions conducive for the welfare of all people.

The delegation exchanged views with the president on the present law and order problem in the country and presented the party's viewpoint on solving it.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Complete Withdrawal From Amparai

*BK2410145689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 24 Oct 89*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, Amparai has become the first district of the Tamil-majority Northeastern Province to

come under full control of the provincial administration. Withdrawal of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from the district was completed yesterday with the last contingent leaving for the port city of Trincomalee from where they are scheduled to sail for home tomorrow.

According to an agency report from Colombo, the provincial administration of Chief Minister Mr Varadaraja Perumal has taken over the responsibility of maintenance of law and order in the area through the local police.

Delhi Radio Reports on Continuing Violence

19 Killed in Past 24 Hours

*BK2310125389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 19 persons have been killed in continuing violence during the last 24 hours. Agency reports, quoting military sources, say JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] activists killed 15 civilians and a government official in separate incidents across the country. Most of the victims are believed to be supporters of the ruling United National Party.

Death Toll Rises to 31

*BK2310144589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 31 persons have been killed in continuing violence during the past 24 hours. Agency reports from Colombo say that bodies of 15 young Sinhala men were found in central Kandy District. They are believed to have been killed by a pro-government vigilante group. Elsewhere in the island, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists killed 15 civilians and a government official in separate incidents. Three JVP men were shot dead in different encounters during search operations last night.